

Thursday August 27 1998

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including US Dollar, British Pound, and others.

The Guardian

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So what happens next?

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Mass screening may follow discovery in appendix

New CJD shock

Chance to track killer disease

James Meekle

THE Government may be forced to carry out mass screening for the human form of BSE following the chance discovery of evidence of the disease in a patient who had his appendix removed in routine surgery.

The man showed no outward signs of the disease at the time but died three years later displaying the appalling symptoms of new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease — dementia, aggression and loss of bodily control.

So far it has been impossible to confirm diagnosis of the disease until after death, when the brain is examined.

The Government now has the chance to track the exposure of the population to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the late 1980s and the risk they were at before potentially infective beef began to be removed from the human food chain.

Ministers have approved a review of thousands of laboratory specimens of appendices and tonsils which are routinely kept in hospital laboratories after removal.

If they find signs of nv-CJD — which has killed 27 people since May 1985 — in just one more sample then mass screening of patients about to have their appendix or tonsils removed will take place.

Researchers are preparing procedures and ethical rules for the initial studies, which will be funded by the Medical Research Council.

If tests on patients are authorised, it is probable they or parents in the case of children — would be asked for permission. Guidance on whether to tell them the results has still to be considered because the disease is incurable.

The case behind the latest twist in the saga involved Tony Barrett, 41, a consultant at Torbay hospital, in Devon. In September 1995, eight months before displaying any signs of nv-CJD and nearly three years before he died, Mr Barrett complained of



Thousands of human appendices, which are kept in hospitals after removal, are to be investigated for signs of nv-CJD

numbness in his face and right hand in May 1996. In April 1997, he was treated for depression and later he became hyperactive and aggressive. This was followed by intermittent deafness, blurred speech and unsteadiness. He died in Derriford hospital, Plymouth, last June. A research letter about his case, although he will not be named, and the suggested screening of specimens is expected to be published in The Lancet medical journal.

After his death, doctors examined his appendix and found a rogue protein associated with nv-CJD. Samples from 44,000 appendectomies and 800,000 tonsillectomies carried out each year are routinely kept by hospital laboratories.

Last night the Government's chief medical officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, said there would be no immediate change of health or BSE controls. But officials are anxious for repeat tests on other appendices "to see what it means. Its significance is not clear. We cannot overstate that."

"If we do a test on appendices and do not find anything, it is only partly reassuring. All this will do is give us a preliminary view of what is going on in the population as a whole."

The testing of previous samples would be done anonymously but if another positive case was discovered, the Government would switch to "pro-active mode" and ask permission to test people's appendices and tonsils before surgery.

However, initial checks may not uncover further examples because of the small number of nv-CJD victims in a population of 60 million.

At present there is no treatment to "modulate" the disease as there is with HIV and AIDS, for instance, although work on simple, reliable and effective tests for the disease and drugs to block its progress is under way.

Sir Kenneth said: "Ministers are fully aware of the background to this and all the consequences. They [support] the wish to pick up the opportunity to look at the prevalence in the population."

Health chiefs in the Southwest are also concerned that surgical equipment used to remove Mr Barrett's appendix was used in subsequent operations after cleaning and sterilisation. Surgical instruments used on known or suspected nv-CJD patients are meant to be destroyed.

Sir Kenneth said yesterday the risk of contamination was minimal, but a helpline will be opened today for patients seeking reassurance. "It is a very unlikely mode of transmission... Advisers consider the risk is minimal," he said. A further review of decontamination and disposal procedures was under way but "no action is anticipated at this stage."

South and West Devon Health Authority said: "Our advice is that there is no evidence that other patients are at risk."

'Sleight of hand' in waiting list fall

The waiting list issue is of paramount importance for Labour because of its "early pledge" to cut by 100,000 the total it inherited of 1,131,200. In fact, the total has risen to 1,267,200, having peaked at 1,312,700 at the end of April.

Had yesterday's figures been presented in the usual way, a quarterly fall of 10,000 would have been reported, and three of the eight health regions — Northern and Yorkshire, North Thames and West Midlands — would have been shown to have longer queues. By adding July, all regions are shown to have cut their queues and the overall fall over four months is shown to be 30,400.

In Mr Dobson's separate statement, however, the fall is presented as half as much again by taking no account of April — when the total list rose 16,000 — and calculating a quarterly figure based on May, June and July.

The four-month figures are being justified on grounds that ministers henceforth intend to publish monthly waiting lists.

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MINISTERS yesterday conjured a statistical sleight of hand as craftily as anything by their Conservative predecessors, to demonstrate that NHS waiting lists in England are falling at a record rate and have plunged 45,000 in three months.

Instead of publishing figures for the quarter to the end of June, in the usual way, the Department of Health produced more favourable data for the four months to the end of July.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, went further by ignoring April — when waiting lists rose — in order to show the 45,000 fall over the rest of the four-month period.

The legerdemain angered Evan Harris, Liberal Democrat health spokesman and a former GP. He said: "It's pure abuse of statistics: they are just not comparing like with like."

The move also caused raised eyebrows among health economists that the Government Statistical Service, which prides itself on impartiality, had co-operated with such an unannounced and fundamental change in its data series.

In opposition, Labour repeatedly accused the Tory government of manipulating waiting list figures. Even yesterday, Mr Dobson was stressing in interviews that Labour left the figures to statisticians who were free from political influence and would never "fiddle" the results.

As he proclaimed the 45,000 fall, the minister said the figures were "falling faster than at any time in the history of the health service".

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Expensive soccer imports help widen UK trade gap

Mark Atkinson and Mark Miller

JAAP STAM, Manchester United's new £10 million man from PSV Eindhoven, is now playing for the Reds. From next month, however, any further foreign signings at Old Trafford or elsewhere in the Premier League will be helping to push Britain's trade deficit into the red.

For the first time government number crunchers at the Office of National Statistics will include transfer market dealings in the nation's balance sheet.

In the past, football transfer

fees were too trivial to be included in the national accounts. But with £70 million worth of talent joining the English Premier League since June, the numbers have become too big to ignore.

The question is just how the likes of Messrs Stam, Pierluigi Casiraghi and Dietmar Hamann will be treated in the official statistics. Will they join "erratic items" such as precious stones and aircraft? Or will they be "invisible" like tourism or financial services?

The answer will depend on how the clubs themselves treat their star signings: whether in the arcane language of accountants they are

Top four transfers

| Player | From | To | Fees |
|------------------|-----------|---------|------|
| 1. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 2. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 3. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 4. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |

Transfer fees from abroad

| Player | From | To | Fees |
|------------------|-----------|---------|------|
| 1. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 2. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 3. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |
| 4. Jari Litmanen | Sheff Wed | Man Utd | £10m |

that would see them recorded in the narrower monthly trade figures.

Either way, the impact is likely to be negative, given Britain's tendency to import more players than it exports.

Figures published yesterday showed the trade gap is widening sharply due to the strength of the pound, which makes British exports less competitive in world markets, and the Asian financial crisis.

The deficit of more than \$5.6 billion in the first half of 1998 was the worst for eight years. Recording the outflow of cash for foreign football signings can only make an already deteriorating situation worse.

The decision to include football transfer fees in the national accounts for the first time is part of a wider ranging review of the way the figures are compiled. "We try to keep up with events in the real world," said an ONS official.

The level of recent deals are equivalent to the UK's annual imports from Trinidad (Aston Villa got Dwight Yorke cheap when they bought him from there for £120,000 nine years ago) or double the annual imports of lemons. Given the performances of some signings from abroad that is enough said about lemons.

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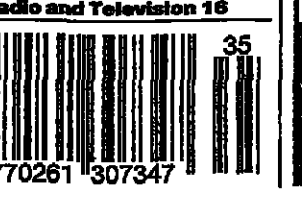
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Also: The Edinburgh Festival + Gary Younge in Washington + Women + Online + Quick Crossword

Chernomyrdin appeals for aid as West decries Moscow debt plan and leading bank collapses

Russia in emergency talks with IMF

James Meek and
Tara Whitmore in Moscow,
and Larry Elliott

THE Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, flew to Ukraine last night for emergency talks with the head of the International Monetary Fund as the crashing rouble and the collapse of a leading bank pushed Russia further into chaos.

The trip by the IMF head, Michel Camdessus, to meet Mr Chernomyrdin and the leaders of the former Soviet republics Ukraine and Belarus — which have been sucked into the Russian economic crisis — was kept secret until the last minute.

As the rouble plunged new lows against the dollar yesterday, the central bank declared the trade null and void and said it would no longer spend its dwindling reserves to support the currency.

The first big banking collapse since rouble devaluation was announced yesterday when Bank Imperial, the 13th biggest bank, had its licence withdrawn.

Deutschebank trade yesterday suggested the rouble would have fallen to almost 14 against the dollar, a loss of more than 100 per cent in 10 days and a clear signpost on the road to hyperinflation.

Trading in the Ukrainian currency, the hryvna, was halted on the Kiev exchange yesterday as bankers scrambled for dollars. In neo-Soviet Belarus the local currency has fallen about 800 per cent in recent months.

In Russia price rises accelerated yesterday, many banks and exchange booths were closed and depositors queued at branches still open to withdraw cash.

One Russian advertising executive said: "I've lost a huge contract. No one is doing business. How can they? What price should they trade at? What currency should they use? You can't use the dollar because it's officially illegal. And the rouble?"

A Moscow-based British economist, Al Breach, said Russia could not now rule out general default on its foreign debts. "If you default on one set of debts, why not default on all of them?" he said.

Calls for Mr Yeltsin to quit grew more insistent yesterday. Gennady Seleznev, chairman of the lower house of parliament, the state Duma, said deputies had drafted a law guaranteeing any retiring president 10-year membership of the upper house. This would make him immune from prosecution — though not his family or associates.

Gen Survival, aged 11 and illiterate, wins reprieve for tree home

GENERAL Survival, an illiterate 11-year-old with shoulder-length hair, yesterday won the right to stay in his tree home above affluent Epsom in Surrey for at least another five weeks.

Master Survival, formerly Matthew Williams, may not be able to read or write — as befits one who has not been to school for three years — but he can speak. Not that he was allowed to do so at the High Court in London.

"I don't think it's fair they wouldn't let me talk," he said after the hearing. "I was going to say that I'm here because I want to save the silver birches and the woodland. My friends like the green and come and play in the woodland. I don't want all that to come to an end because the trees have been chopped down to make a road."

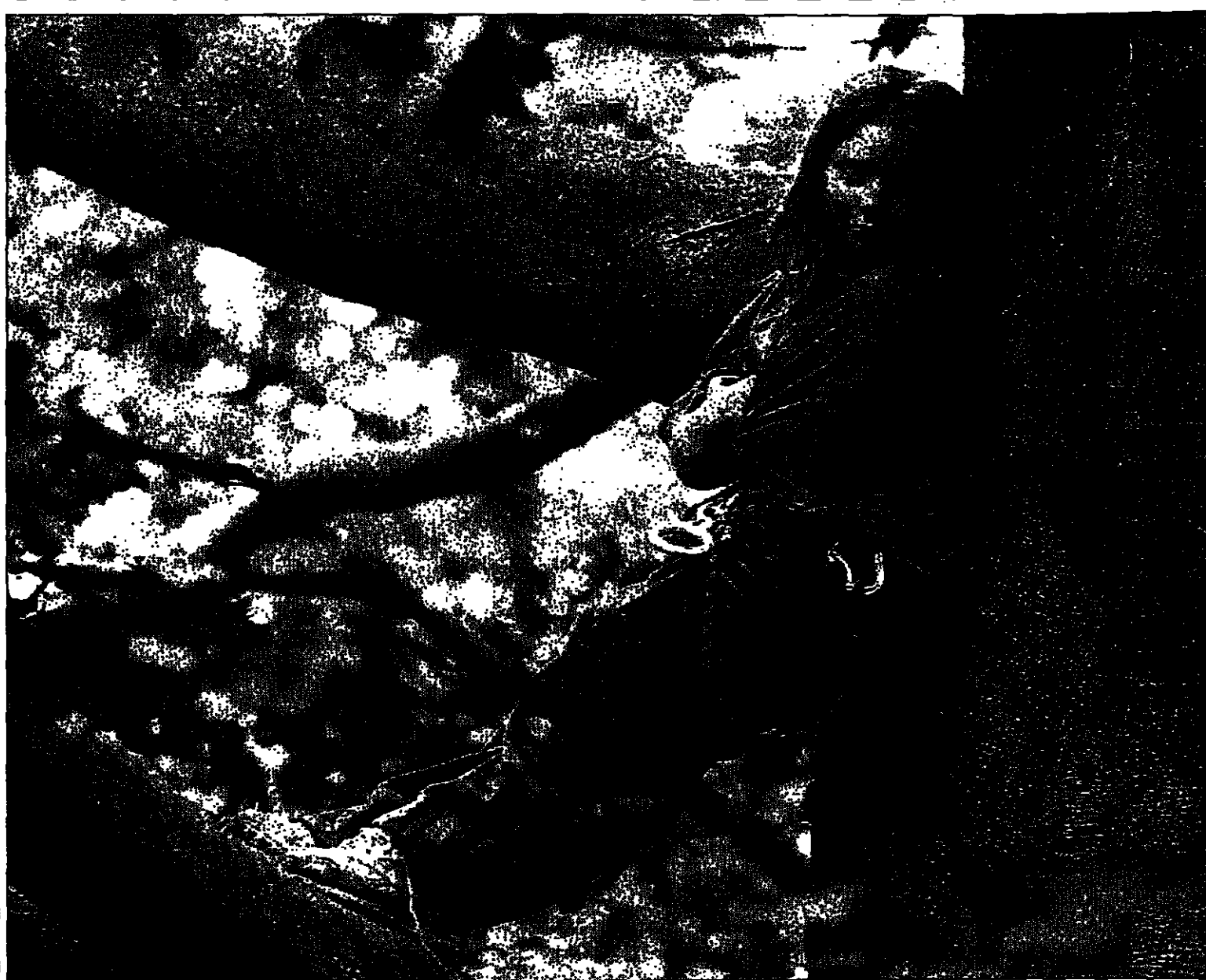
His Goddess said: "I think we are a lot better off living in a tree house than a council estate in Kingston, where we used to live. That place was just a haven for drugs and crime. Matthew understands the value of the park as a place everyone should be able to enjoy."

Master Survival dropped out of school after failing behind on his lessons at his Kingston primary. He spends his days climbing trees, picking up litter and helping to dig tunnels.

He is being taught to read by campaigner Nigel Veal. "I would like to think that he will be representing the children of the world in the appeal," said Mr Veal. "This is the only green space in the centre of town and most of the residents don't want it to disappear."

Epsom councillor Eber Kingdon said: "It can't be right that a group of outsiders has come in and imposed its will on the residents of the borough."

"I do not think this 11-year-old is leading the campaign and it is disgraceful that he can't read or write. He should not be paraded as some kind of hero."



Woodland home... Young eco-warrior General Survival in the Epsom trees to be chopped down to make way for a road. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOODWIN

"I'm here because I want to save the silver birches and the woodland. My friends like the green and come and play in the woodland. I don't want all that to come to an end because the trees have been chopped down to make a road"

Matthew Williams, alias General Survival

Chaucer's Wife of Bath gets DNA treatment

Tim Radford
Science Editor

SCHOLARS may soon be able to reconstruct what Geoffrey Chaucer intended when he wrote his 14th-century masterpiece *The Canterbury Tales*.

Four researchers from three universities report in the magazine *Nature* today that they have constructed an evolutionary tree based on computer analysis of 88 early versions of the *Wife of Bath's* Prologue. It throws new light on the feisty survivor of serial marriage, and leads scholars nearer to discovering which might have been the original text.

Chaucer died in 1400, before the invention of printing, and he never finished *The Canterbury Tales*. The work was copied and recopied by hand. Inevitably, mistakes were introduced. By 1500 there were at least 10 different versions and 25,000 pages of text.

Scholars have for a century or more tried to compile a definitive edition. But that entails identifying which of the manuscripts is the oldest. Until the computer age the job was too huge to complete.

Then evolutionary biologists recognised the same ancient problem they face in their discipline. Family characteristics are passed on through DNA. But DNA mutates over generations, and mistakes are introduced in copying. So family links in humans and in animal species are established through analysis of "copying mistakes" revealed by DNA fingerprinting.

Peter Robinson of De Montfort University said: "Chaucer left a pretty terrible mess behind him when he died, and we have got to try to reconstruct what that mess was and create something that people can sensibly read."

Christopher Howe, a biochemist at the University of Cambridge and one of the *Canterbury Tales* Project team, said: "I was talking to friends about their work on tracing the origins of manuscripts when it struck me that I was doing exactly the same thing tracing the origins of new species."

The project, a co-operation between British and United States universities, used a DNA analysis technique developed in the past 10 years to show the kinship of all modern humans to one woman who may have lived in Africa more than 200,000 years ago.

But it has barely begun. Dr Robinson said: "As we've taken eight years to get through about 10 per cent of *The Canterbury Tales*, we expect to be busy for a long while."

'Sleight of hand' over waiting list figures

continued from page 1
ing list statistics. Calculation of monthly totals is said to have been requested by NHS managers, but the Government may also hope it will dilute interest in the statistics.

A Health Department spokesman said: "As we were making this change anyway, and the July figures were available, it seemed to make sense to include them."

While ministers are undoubtedly relieved that "the supercrank has turned", as Mr Dobson put it, it remains a huge challenge to cut the total by a further 236,000 before the next general election.

Chantrey Vellacott, an accountancy company which specialises in waiting list analysis, yesterday gave the minister "little or no chance" of achieving his first goal of getting the total below the level he inherited by next spring.

Mr Dobson said on BBC radio that he did not "give a stuff" what "two-bit accountants" thought.

مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Apocalypse, now with Powerbook

Jonathan Romney
Edinburgh Film Festival

AS prophesied by Hal Hartley, the *Apocalypse* will come when Jesus flies into JFK in search of The Book holding the names of the redeemed. The book is an Apple Mac Powerbook, of course, and it only takes a double-click to unfurl the seals that will summon plague, pestilence and the rising of the dead souls. But first, the Messiah must engage in negotiations with upstart lawyers, a breed especially beloved of the Almighty.

The Book of Life, an hour-long vignette, is Hartley all over. Jesus is played by the director's craggy-faced, impassive regular Martin Donovan as a charismatic, careworn executive in a business suit. His brisk, glamorous personal assistant, Mary Magdalene, is played by rather wooden effect by avant-rock queen PJ Harvey. Satan is in town too, a shambling lounge-lizard. Played by Thomas Jay Ryan, with an appealingly shaggy Tom Waits edge, it's Satan who provides the film's pinkest moments. But isn't that always the way?

The Book of Life is a new departure for Hartley only in terms of the visuals. Shot with High-Definition TV equipment, the image constantly shakes, shivers and blurs. But the film relies too heavily on this visual frenzy for its energy: it suffers from Hartley's usual complaints, a stiltedness in the dialogue and acting, and a chronic fixation with surface glamour.

The trouble is, there's nothing very new about the film's satirical passion play. Jesus and Satan engage in philosophical disputations like a couple of boardroom litigants. They use to work for the same boss, Jesus points out. "I were fired," Jesus corrects him.

The metaphysical crux of the story revolves around the fate of the one Good Soul in New York, a Japanese waitress (Mitsuko Uchida), who wins a million on the lottery and decides to spend it all dispersing soup — which makes for one of the film's better running gags. But the more you flip the film becomes, the more you feel that Hartley imagines it to be a terribly trenchant *Zeitgeist* rather than the souped-up sketch that it is.

The mix of dry theological dialogues and disjointed slapstick suggests warmed-over Dostoevsky given a Godard polish. So this is how the world ends, neither with a bang nor a whimper but an arched eyebrow.

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The Guardian Thursday August 27 1998



Old fashioned image: Yardley ad from the 1950s

Scent of success eludes Yardley as receivers move in

Lisa Buckingham reports on cosmetics group's demise

YARDLEY, the cosmetics group which has been battling to shake off its dowdy talc-and-lavender-water image, was yesterday put into receivership by its financial backers. Debts at the group — which last year replaced Helena Bonham Carter as the "face of Yardley" with supermodel Linda Evangelista — have escalated to £120 million. Although the company boasts one of the best-known brand names and sells in huge volumes through major outlets such as Boots and Superdrug it has failed to establish itself as one of the cosmetics world's financial success stories. The need to keep paying interest on enormous loans meant Yardley lacked the financial firepower needed to go head-to-head with the new breed of designer cosmetics from companies such as Tommy Hilfinger and Calvin Klein. This became critical as the loyal but ageing legions of Yardley supporters began to die off and the group was left marooned in a hugely competitive £35 billion global luxury goods market increasingly

dominated by younger brands. Yardley, believed to be a favourite of the Queen Mother, is not alone in the struggle to keep up with the rapidly changing cosmetics market but its management was taken by surprise as the receivers moved in yesterday morning. Elizabeth Arden clocked up losses last year after its Black Pearl perfume bombed in the important US market, while the exclusive French fashion group Chanel has now accepted the need to make its first move into the mass market, aiming at trendy youngsters who have been successfully courted by Calvin Klein's CKOne, owned by the consumer giant Unilever. CKOne is estimated to be worth about £20 million a year compared with £16 million for Chanel No 5. Yardley's strategic problems were compounded by financial ones. The company, which was founded in 1770 and enjoys three royal warrants, is now likely to see its product range exploited by an owner with far deeper pockets. Big players in the cosmetics

market such as Fabergé, L'Oréal, Louis Vuitton and Unilever are likely to be among those considering a bid for Yardley whose price tag could top £20 million. Tony Thompson, of receivers KPMG, said the company's brands remained among the best regarded in the UK's \$4.5 billion a year cosmetics market. He added: "This offers the opportunity for the right buyer to acquire them [Yardley's brands] and unleash their potential. We expect to receive a high level of interest." He was confident the group's future would be resolved quickly. "Yardley's portfolio of brands, including the Yardley name itself, are highly renowned on the UK high street and internationally. We have already identified a number of potential purchasers in the UK and overseas, whose businesses have a strategic fit with Yardley." He expects to have identified the ultimate purchaser within three weeks. Most of the group's 300 employees at its manufacturing plant at Basildon, in Essex, have already been made



Fashionable gloss: campaign starring supermodel Linda Evangelista, part of Yardley's belated effort to reinvent itself

Libyans delay decision on trial

Richard Norton-Taylor

LIBYA yesterday asked the UN Security Council for more time to consider the Anglo-American proposal for a panel of Scottish judges to try the citizens accused of being responsible for the Lockerbie bomb. In a letter to the council, Ramadan Barge, the country's senior diplomat at the UN, said: "Libya is anxious to arrive at a settlement of this dispute and to turn over a new page in its relations with the states concerned."

However, Libya is likely to come under pressure to come up with a speedy response at a non-aligned summit in Durban this weekend hosted by the South African president, Nelson Mandela. Mr Mandela, who has welcomed the proposal, saying he was "confident that [the plan] should lead to the resolution of this matter", has spoken on the telephone to Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, about the issue.

The proposal has also been welcomed by Esmat Abdel Meguid, head of the Arab League, who has described it as "compatible" with previous proposals for resolving the deadlock put forward by Arab quarters and already accepted by Libya.

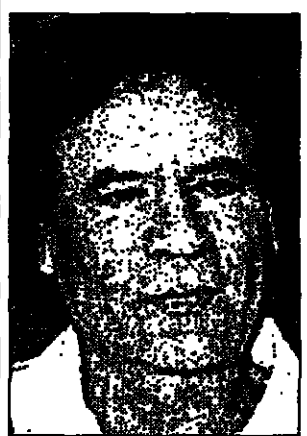
Britain and the United States have tabled a draft UN security council resolution suspending sanctions against Libya imposed in 1992 once the two suspects were turned over to the Netherlands.

The sanctions banned air travel and arms sales to the country. The Foreign Office last night said there was no need for Libya to delay in responding to the proposal. Yesterday, Stephen Mitchell, a London-based lawyer for the two Libyan suspects, said the use of Scottish judges — rather than an international panel — was likely to be the

biggest obstacle in agreeing a trial format. He added, however, "I would not say at this stage that I do not think a panel of Scottish judges could try the case."

Mr Mitchell is co-ordinating the work of the suspects' non-Libyan legal team, which includes lawyers from Scotland, the US, Switzerland, Germany and Malta. He said he had spoken to Ibrahim Legwell, the Libyan lawyer leading the defence, and a meeting of the multinational legal team was planned in Libya within the next two weeks to work out a detailed response to the proposals. Mr Mitchell said: "We want to make sure if they are taken to Holland they will not then be extradited to Scotland. And we will want to know how they will be treated, will they be allowed visits from their lawyers, will they get their Muslim food, and so on."

The two Libyans accused of the Pan Am flight 103 bombing, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, are currently under house arrest in Tripoli. They are accused of conspiracy and murdering the 270 people who died when the aircraft was blown up and crashed into the Scottish town of Lockerbie in December 1988.



Colonel Gaddafi: Plea for time on Lockerbie decision

What's in

Ruby & Millie Currently at Harvey Nichols, but coming to a Boots near you in the autumn, this new British make-up brand has all markets covered. Top-quality, cosmetics, reasonable prices, ultra-cool packaging, photogenic creators, and no naff lip-slick names. It can't fail.

Maybelline Mass-market brand behind Great Lash, the supermodel's favourite mascara. The truly devoted used to trek to America to find it; after a long wait, it arrived in the UK earlier this year.

Jo Malone The fashion world's favourite beauty guru. There's a long waiting list to see the lady

herself, but her scents, skin-care and body lotions, packed with fragrant essential oils, are the last word in gift-giving.

Bioré The facial strip trend is sweeping the nation — and Bioré got there first. Stick a strip on your nose, wait 10 minutes, whisk off, and bingo: no more blackheads! Suddenly, slathering your face with cream seems so old-fashioned.

Kiehls American skin and hair-care company that's been available here for a while, but still has a loyal following. Devoted fans won't trust anything else on their tresses.

What's out

Body Shop The beleaguered beauty company has taken a bit of a battering in recent months, but its holier-than-thou, this-is-how-they-do-it-in-deepest-Africa approach is long past its sell-by date. If you like your beauty products green and spiritual, try Aveda.

Calvin Klein's Obsession, Christian Dior's Poison, Giorgio Beverly Hills Headache-inducing perfumes that reek of the 1980s, a quality that naturally renders them the kiss of death in fashionable circles.

Hard Candy nail polish When it launched a couple of years ago, there was nothing more fashionable than these

super-bright nail colours, so it was inevitable that the fickle fashion crowd would eventually move on. Still, it was very cool at the time.

L'Oréal Studio Line "Sculpt your hair any way you like it..." A seriously naff advertising campaign has no doubt contributed to Studio Line's sorry status as the least fashionable hair products. Save it for the eighties revival.

Hawaiian Tropic There is no greater fashion no-no than a deep, accelerated tan. These days, even our foundation has to have sun protection — and the higher the better. Nothing less than factor 20 will do.

KENNETH BRANAGH MADELEINE STOWE WILLIAM HURT

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12

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AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS FROM SEPTEMBER 4

One man who went to a betting shop in Essex was on the verge of collecting £18,000, but left when he was asked to wait while the result was checked.

Vivek Chaudhary on a betting scandal at the heart of racing

G2 page 4

4 BRITAIN

World's first bionic arm is tested for NHS

Gerard Seenan

IT WAS the stuff of science fiction. As Campbell Aird lifted his right arm for the first time in more than 16 years yesterday the faint whirr of electric motors could be heard from underneath his shirt. Beneath his turtleneck and under the synthetic skin, a system of wheels and motors powered the carbon-fibre arm and hand he held out to be shaken. The 47-year-old hotelier is the proud owner of what has been predictably dubbed the world's first bionic arm.

The lightweight arm, the culmination of around 12 years' work by prosthetic specialists at Edinburgh's Princess Margaret Rose hospital, is the first to contain a motorised shoulder, bending elbow, rotating wrists and contracting fingers. The sophisticated mechanics are clothed by a latex skin so life-like that it comes with wrinkles and fingerprints.

Mr Aird, from Dumfriesshire, moves the electric arm by pressing tiny micro-sensors and microswitches at the top of the arm using residual movement he has left in his shoulder. These micro-sensors send out electrical pulses which control the system of gears and motors in the arm.

In time, specialists hope, pressing the sensors will become so natural that his brain will associate moving a finger with a twitch in his shoulder — he will move the arm without conscious thought.

"I have already tried a less sophisticated version and if you ask me which buttons I pressed to move it, I'd have no idea."

"It becomes so natural that I can do things like tying shoelaces and hammering nails without even thinking," said Mr Aird. David Gow, the scientist who led the research to develop the Edinburgh Modular Arm System, says that, after it has been road tested by Mr Aird, it could be available on the NHS within two years.

"We have some commercial interest from a British company and it usually



More than skin deep... hotelier Campbell Aird shows the dexterity of his bionic arm

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MacLEOD

takes 18 months to get these into production. There is no reason why we could not see it on the NHS shortly after that," said Mr Gow.

The prototype arm costs £100,000 to manufacture but its simple design means it could be produced for the NHS for around £10,000.

It was designed with a modular construction which means that the arm and the shoulder are the

same piece. All that differs is the power of the motor. This allows the arm to be easily adapted to fit both children and adults.

Mr Aird lost his arm to cancer at five years ago and since then he says he has set out to prove to other amputees that it is possible to live a normal life after the loss of a limb.

"In 1987 I windsurfed across the English Channel.

I have won 12 trophies for shooting. Basically, I've tried water and I've tried land, so now I'm going to do air — I booked myself some paragliding lessons for next week," he said.

It will be a few years before the technology in the arm — which is roughly half the weight of a natural arm — is refined enough for the specialists to attempt treating a bionic leg. But

the concept is not out of the question.

"A person who has lost an arm can do around 90 per cent of the things someone with full use of both arms can do. This arm will lower that gap considerably. With a leg the difference is much larger and the limb is more complex. However, if we get funding, I think we could do it," said Mr Gow.

Passengers damn rail operators

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BRITAIN'S rail system was yesterday delivered the most damning condemnation of passenger service it has ever received, logging a 103 per cent increase in passenger complaints — and it is getting worse.

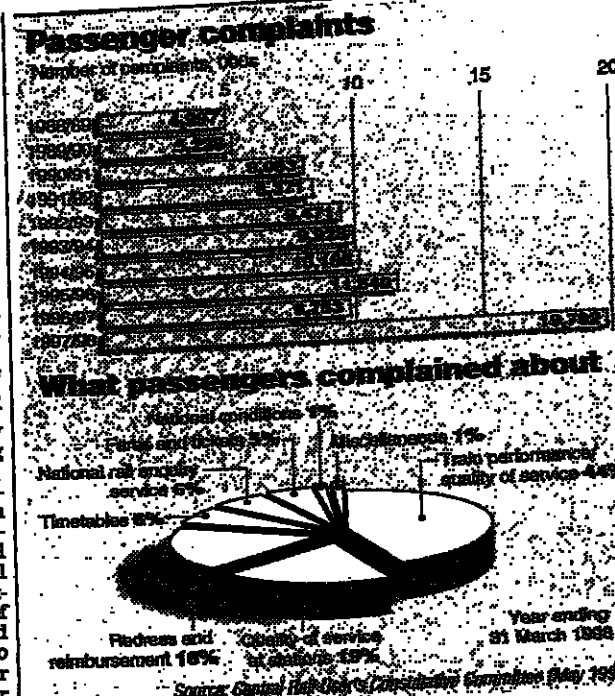
After falling back to 9,753 in the year to March last year, complaints to the passengers' national watchdog body rose to 19,792 the following year, the highest number ever recorded. Four times as many passengers are complaining as four years ago.

The first sign that the system has become worse than under British Rail was underlined by Ian Bates, general secretary of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee. He said that eight out of 17 rail companies had failed to reach BR's targets. He also warned that the figures for the first quarter of this year were bad, and that next year's annual total could be even worse.

David Bertram, the committee's chairman, last night called on the 25 train operating companies to increase compensation to passengers as a goodwill gesture. He said they should reduce the time for automatic compensation for lateness to 30 minutes from an hour, and that payments should rise from £20 to £40.

His greatest concern was the continued "erratic performance". He had never seen such variability and promised improvements were still awaited.

Mr Bertram declared: "The persistence and scale of inconsistency, coupled with an overall lack of maintained improvement, is both costly to the industry and frustrating to the passengers. Passengers deserve better."



Compared with last year, this year's complaints on overcrowding rose by 140 per cent, punctuality by 134 per cent, and reliability by 149 per cent. Complaints about the national telephone inquiry service rose 238 per cent.

Complaints to the committee were highest in the London region, while the largest increases in complaints were in the west of England, up 200 per cent, and Scotland up 130 per cent. Complaints on Connex South Eastern's Kent link route soared by 67 per cent, while ScotRail was singled out as the most improved rail operator. Its complaints fell by 89 per cent.

A total of 257,843 trains were delayed and 46,891 cancelled during 1997/98. Cancellations and delays rose on 17 of the 66 routes operated by the 25 companies. Punctuality

worsened on 35 routes, reliability on 22 routes.

Great Western experienced some of the worst delays, with only 84.6 per cent of its trains running on time or less than 20 minutes late. The largest percentage of delays was on Virgin Rail's west coast Scottish route with 30 per cent, but Thameslink reduced its delays by 21 per cent.

Jimmy Knapp, leader of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, said: "The report is yet more evidence that rail privatisation is not working. It has not solved the problem of under-resourcing, and things have been made worse by the fragmentation of the industry."

Keith Bill, national secretary of the pressure group, Save Our Railways, said: "Things will not improve until one or two train companies lose their franchises."

Play folds as actor linked to war crimes

Dan Glatzer
Arts Correspondent

A CROAT soldier who appeared in an award-winning play in the Edinburgh Festival has been accused of leading a battalion which committed war crimes. The play, *Soldiers*, at the Traverse Theatre, was abruptly cancelled last week, and Nick Glasnovic left the country.

The official explanation was that he had to rejoin his battalion in Bosnia in the run-up to the Bosnian elections.

The night before he left, Mr Glasnovic had a televised confrontation with Len Lukovic, a Falklands veteran turned writer. The former paratrooper accused Mr Glasnovic of being a commander of the notorious HVO, the Croatian Defence Council.

The allegation was supported by Colonel Bob Stewart, former commander of the British forces in Bosnia, who

met Mr Glasnovic in 1992. Col Stewart said: "I do not know about his own involvement, but certainly his brigade carried out some terrible acts, the shelling of a village called Gorinjak, for example, when the HVO tanks were turned on one house after another before the soldiers went in to kill survivors."

Mr Lukovic, whose Falklands book has been adapted for another fringe production, said of *Soldiers*: "There is a responsibility to the men, women and children who lost their lives in Bosnia to tell the truth about that war. It does not take much research to discover the HVO were fascists and guilty of some of the worst atrocities."

"To allow a man like Glasnovic to recount his experiences without challenge was shameful and an insult to the dead."

The play was produced by the Grassmarket Project, which has a record of using ordinary people rather than actors to gain insight into an issue.

The director of *Soldiers*, Jeremy Weller, said: "If it is found to be the case that Mr Glasnovic was involved in war crimes, and these are only allegations, I will of course utterly regret the experience of bringing him to the play."

He rejected suggestions that the project had not done enough research. "You have to take a lot on trust," he said. "I asked Glasnovic if he were involved in anything, and he said no. He arrived with the trust of a very famous war journalist, Jane Kokan."

This is not the first time the project has attracted controversy. A piece about young offenders made headlines when two of the cast tried to mug a tourist.

But Mr Weller defended the project. "The purpose of the piece was to hear from people who were involved in the conflict, not UN observers. My motives are hardly sensational. I want to go behind the veil of war and understand it."

Arch-sceptic to launch blitz on euro

Peter Hetherington

HE MODESTLY calls it a "people's campaign" to halt the Government's headlong rush into a European single currency. But the cost of Paul Sykes's battle to save the pound will be considerably more than the £2 million he spent bankrolling Eurosceptic Tories at the last election.

"This is not being done on the back of a bag packet," he laughed.

Yesterday the Yorkshire businessman, who built Sheffield's huge Meadowhall shopping complex, promised the biggest private publicity blitz the country has known in an attempt to force a No vote in any referendum on economic and monetary union.

He thinks that this could take place before the next election, "sooner rather than later".

The former Barnsley tyre fitter, worth an estimated £250 million, is so convinced that Tony Blair is on a fast track to the euro — which most EU member states will join on January 1 — that he has scheduled a lavish launch of a "Britain says No" campaign for the new year.

Newspaper and television advertisements, leaflet drops, public meetings and videos could all be used to drive home the message that British democracy faces its most grave threat.

An Internet service provider he owns would also spread the message.

"We will take... it to every doorstep, every village and town in the nation, so they can see the full implications for the British people."

Since quitting the Conservatives two years ago in protest at John Major's equivocation over Europe, Mr Sykes has been quietly making contact with fellow sceptics from business and the trade unions, to mount what will effectively become the only substantial opposition to a government-funded Yes campaign in a referendum.

He said he had drawn together economists from the 15 member states, and consti-



Man of the world... but Paul Sykes is fighting to save the pound from Europe

PHOTOGRAPH: ASADOUR GUZELIAN

tutional specialists, to drive home his message. "If we give up our currency that is the end of our independence."

"There is no such thing as a nation without a currency — we are kidding ourselves. Economic union means one nation to make them into two years the European Union can become a free-flowing area like the United States is just a joke."

Mr Sykes, aged 55, has set up an office in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, to mobilise his campaign, although he will sub-contract work such as mail shots as it gains mo-

mentum. "We're going to have huge mail shots, and I'm farming that out to commercial companies."

Widely respected across the

'If we give up our currency that is the end of our independence'

political spectrum as a self-made man, he is a likeable maverick intensely proud of his background — his father was a miner. He insists he no

longer has party ambitions. Rather than side with fellow captains of industry — "some of them have never really worked" — he said he was championing the cause of the working man. "He'll be hit if Britain gives up control of interest rates — not big business, which will switch money into other currencies."

Most Britons remained in ignorance about the impact of the euro. "We did a poll recently, and 80 per cent thought the euro would just mean something you swapped for your pounds when you went on holiday."

Paul Sykes insisted he was

no Little Englander. "It's just that this ridiculous fairy tale will not work. Check up on modern history: if you've got an enterprise economy at the same time as a democracy you're going to be all right, but you cannot retain democracy in this nation if you relinquish control of the economy [when] people can never vote for tax and spend policies again."

He quoted the head of the Bundesbank. "He said it is an illusion to think states can hold on to their autonomous taxation policies."

"He's not some scribbler, he's the boss. And that says it all."

Blair and Ahern affirm joint move to counter terrorism

John Mullan
Ireland Correspondent

TONY Blair hailed the unprecedented united approach of the British and Irish governments in fighting terrorism, after a two-hour meeting with Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, yesterday in County Mayo.

Both stood firm in the face of growing doubts about plans to secure convictions for membership of proscribed organisations effectively on the word of a single senior police officer. They made it clear that the powers would not be used against members of the mainstream terror groups on ceasefire.

As the two met, it was announced that President Bill Clinton will visit Omagh, scene of the bomb blast which killed 28, on his visit to Northern Ireland next week.

The security proposals have brought fears they might increase the membership of some groups, as interment did for the IRA in 1971. Civil rights campaigners

see the plan, backed by the SDLP, as interment under another name.

Mr Blair said after the summit at Ashford Castle: "The British and Irish governments are marching in step together, making sure that our measures are complementary with one another's. There is a small group of extremists wishing to wreck the process and the agreement that we have all worked so patiently to build up."

"Our joint determination is that their terrorist activities should not thwart the decided will of the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic. Their desire is for the agreement to be carried through and implemented."

Mr Blair and Mr Ahern acknowledged the need to push ahead with political progress, with the focus switching on to Sinn Féin. The governments are looking for the IRA soon to begin decommissioning. Mr Blair protected Sinn Féin from criticism after the Omagh bomb, speaking of Gerry Adams's peace creden-

tials and ridiculing suggestions the IRA was implicated. He is now looking for payback.

Mr Adams immediately condemned the bombing. Unionists, who say Sinn Féin had little option, believe the party has backtracked since.

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's first minister and leader of the Ulster Unionists, will refuse to sit in the power-sharing executive with Sinn Féin unless the IRA begins to hand in weapons or issues a statement that the terrorist war is over. The assembly reconvenes on September 14, and the issue threatens the Good Friday agreement.

One senior Ulster Unionist said yesterday: "Mr Trimble cannot try to sit down with Sinn Féin. He knows he cannot deliver the 40 per cent of Unionist assembly members required to do so."

Mr Blair said: "What is important the entire time is to build confidence. And the best way of doing that is that the agreement is implemented. Decommissioning is part of the agreement."

one year on Intrigue continues to dog that fatal car crash but the drama may end as a civil case — with minor scapegoat **'No hint of foul play' but who to blame?**

Jon Henley in Paris

CLOAKED in secrecy and awash with rumours, it has been the most extensive inquiry into a traffic accident in French history. But the investigation into the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, Dodi Fayed and their driver Henri Paul, will finally close next month, and the question now is not who did it, but what happens next.

The six senior officers of Paris's elite CID squad who have run the inquiry for the past 12 months are putting the last touches to their report for investigating magistrate Hervé Stéphan. Several thousand pages long, it contains the statements of 153 witnesses, many of them, prosecutors say, "conflicting or pure fantasy."

The conclusion, officials and lawyers insist, remains as it was within days of the crash.

"This was an accident caused by excessive speed induced by excessive alcohol," a senior police source said.

"We have uncovered not the slightest hint of foul play. We are not looking for evidence of a conspiracy any more."

There are a few loose ends left to tie up. Technical reports by consultants on the wrecked Mercedes which crashed in the Pont de l'Alma underpass are expected to be completed by the end of October, the Paris prosecutors' office said this week.

Full reports are also due by then on the level of carbon monoxide found in Mr Paul's bloodstream, described as "slightly above average", on the precise cause of death of all three victims, and on the quality of medical care given to Diana at the accident scene and at the Pitié Salpêtrière hospital, which was criticised by some United States doctors but vigorously defended by French officials.

One report aims to establish whether or not the limousine's brakes were faulty, as its regular driver, Olivier Lafaye, testified last month. Another will focus on the possibility — as an initial study indicated — that the car's airbags inflated prematurely, perhaps when it clipped the rear of the elusive Fiat Uno.

While police believe the white Uno does exist, they have now abandoned their search for it, despite interviewing nearly 5,000 people.

"It's frustrating but it didn't cause the accident," one official said.



The Mercedes in which Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and Henri Paul died, and which, besides being driven by a drunk chauffeur, may have had brake problems PHOTOGRAPH CHARLES PLATON

"There was the merest glaze between them. If the Mercedes hadn't been going at the speed it was, they would never have touched."

Nor are the nine photographers and a picture agency motorbike rider, investigated early on, guilty of causing the crash, police say — despite the insistence of Dodi's

father, Mohamed Al Fayed, that they forced Mr Paul to drive fast to escape them.

Some of the photographers did take pictures at the crash and some could be charged with failure to assist accident victims, a crime in France that, at most, can bring a stiff fine.

But none will be charged with manslaughter.

So there it is. A banal traf-

fic accident, caused by a drunken, speeding driver possibly suffering from mild carbon monoxide poisoning in a car that, according to a man who knew it, might have had braking problems.

Mr Paul, acting security chief at the Fayed-owned Paris Ritz hotel, had more than three times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood when he took the wheel of the black Mercedes S-280 last August 31, and he was on a cocktail of two prescription drugs that included Prozac.

The car was travelling at between 90 and 110 mph when it crashed in the narrow tunnel.

Judge Stéphan's final report, addressed to the Paris prosecutors' office, which will decide whether the case ever comes to trial, is unlikely to be finished before next year. It will almost certainly place the lion's share of the blame on Mr Paul.

But as he cannot be prosecuted, it will be in the distribution of blame elsewhere that the next twists and turns of the case will lie.

There are signs that the

judge may put some blame on the Ritz, Mr Paul's employer, where Diana and Dodi dined together on the night of their deaths. This week, the judge spent four hours interviewing Frank Klein, the hotel's managing director, and Claude Roulet, a director.

The judge is also planning to talk again to Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard and the accident's sole survivor. In May, after leaving Mr Fayed's employment, Mr Rees-Jones asked for the role of the hotel's management to be further examined. Nils Siegel, the co-owner of Etoile Limousine, which leased the Mercedes to the Ritz, will also be interviewed.

Did the Ritz know that Mr Paul had a drink problem and was drunk that night? Why did they abandon standard security practice and call in an off-duty employee not licensed to drive the car? Were they informed about the car's alleged failings? Did they pressure hotel employees not to tell the truth?

The answer to the last question, at least, seems clear.

Alain Willaumez, a hotel barman, told police he was ordered by Mr Klein to testify that Mr Paul drank only fruit juice that night. In fact, Mr Willaumez now says, Mr Paul was clearly drunk. "His eyes were shiny. He bumped into the first barman and then staggered towards the exit."

Under French law, the

greatly distanced himself from Mr Fayed and the two had a long-distance slanging match this week after the Egyptian-born businessman told Time magazine that the bodyguard and Alexander "Kee" Wingfield, the driver of the decoy car, had failed to follow the rules. "It may be that [Rees-Jones] is testing the waters, seeing what the response may be to a civil or criminal suit."

But Diana's estate, or even the royal family, facing Mr Fayed in a Paris courtroom? "To be honest, I don't see it happening," said Mr Baduel. "The royal family certainly won't mix themselves up in anything like that. My prediction is, it'll all be swept under the carpet. One or two minor scapegoats may be found, but basically Henri Paul will carry the can. He is dead, and the case died with him."

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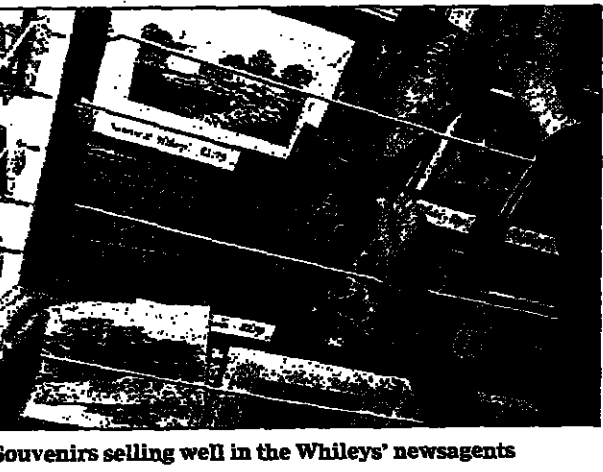
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Full archive of the Guardian's Diana coverage from the past year at: <http://reports.guardian.co.uk/Diana/>



Souvenirs selling well in the Whileys' newsagents

Diana and me

Christine Whitley, postmistress, Great Brington, Northants

"WE USED to be open on four days a week during normal hours, and my husband would open up on Sunday mornings for the papers. Since Diana's death we are open seven days between 8.15am and 7pm."

I open early in the morning so that the villagers can come in and get their business sorted out. When we finish in the evening the shop has to be restocked, and we normally have din-

ner and then just collapse into bed.

The shop has been enlarged and re-kitted out, and we sell quite a few Diana mementoes including a pink candle, china, thimbles and a purple and white Diana beanie bear, which is very popular.

We have always been on the tourist trail because of Althorp, but it used to be a trickle of visitors. Now I imagine it is several hundred people a day.

A few years ago it was so quiet we were under threat of closure, but we had a

successful campaign to stay open. Now we are trading a foreign currency exchange because of the number of visitors. In February we sold 10,000 first day covers of the Diana commemorative stamps and donated 50 per cent of the profits to the memorial fund.


I have been here for 20 years. The princess used to come in a few times, before she got married, when she came back to Althorp. When she died we felt fairly close to her, and it was a great shock.

Interview by Helen Carter





Christine Whitley... Now serving several hundred visitors a day PHOTOGRAPH MARTIN GOODMAN


BEFORE CHECKING OUT FOR YOUR BANK HOLIDAY, CHECK IN AT


 CHECK OIL


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 CHECK TYRE PRESSURE

 CHECK WATER

 CLEAN SCREEN

FREE  AND YOU CAN PICK UP A FREE CLEAN GLASS TRIGGER PAGE FREE



BEFORE YOU GO ANYWHERE THIS Bank Holiday, check your oil at Esso. Recent surveys have shown that 5% of all cars run on less than the recommended level of oil, and 1% run on oil below the recommended minimum level. These cars are at risk of considerable engine problems. By getting Esso Ultronic on your checklist, you're helping to prevent your car from being one of them. So go to your local Esso Service station and check it out now.

*Offer only available at participating Esso Service Stations. While stocks last.

WORLD NEWS

Southern Italy's jobless put PM under pressure

John Hooper in Rome

ITALY'S prime minister, Romano Prodi, yesterday spent more than an hour closeted with his employer, the Italian government, as they prepared to tackle what looks certain to be the key political issue this autumn — unemployment.

More than 12 per cent of Italian workers are without a job. That alone means Italy has one of the highest unemployment rates among economically developed countries. Of the member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, only Spain, Belgium and Finland have a worse problem.

But if Italy's plight is serious, the problem is chronic in the south, where unemployment is running at roughly double the national average.

It could yet bring down Professor Prodi's government — a fact the prime minister acknowledged on Tuesday when he implicitly offered to resign if judged to have failed to create sufficient jobs.

Describing the prime minister as a worker like any other, he said: "If he doesn't have solutions, he ought to change professions."

The pressure for a solution is coming from numerous quarters. Groups representing the jobless resumed a public awareness campaign in Naples yesterday. A group known as the Available Labour Force lobbied the big trade union federations at their local headquarters, while the People's Alternative

demonstrated outside regional government offices.

About 100 members of a group known as the Neapolitan Euro-jobless blocked the entrance to the city's main police station, demanding to be interrogated. Representatives of Mr Prodi's centre-left coalition have claimed the Naples jobless groups have links with, or are being exploited by, organised crime.

"The suspicion in Rome is that organised crime is trying to pressure the government to resume hand-outs to the poor south. For decades the Neapolitan Camorra and Sicilian

'People have got to understand that there are no magic solutions'

Mafia have benefited from grants and loans aimed at revitalising the Mezzogiorno.

Sergio D'Antoni, head of the Roman Catholic-inspired CISL trade union federation, has called for a one-day general strike in support of job creation policies. But the government is also being squeezed by the party that keeps it in power.

Communist Refoundation, whose votes give the government its lower house majority, is split between a moderate wing headed by the party's leader, Fausto Bertinotti, and a radical faction under chairman Armando Cossutta on whether to back Prodi.

A growing number within

the party believe the government is not doing enough to create new jobs in the south, even though Prof Prodi's government has agreed to a special agency for the Mezzogiorno and the introduction of a 35-hour week by 2001.

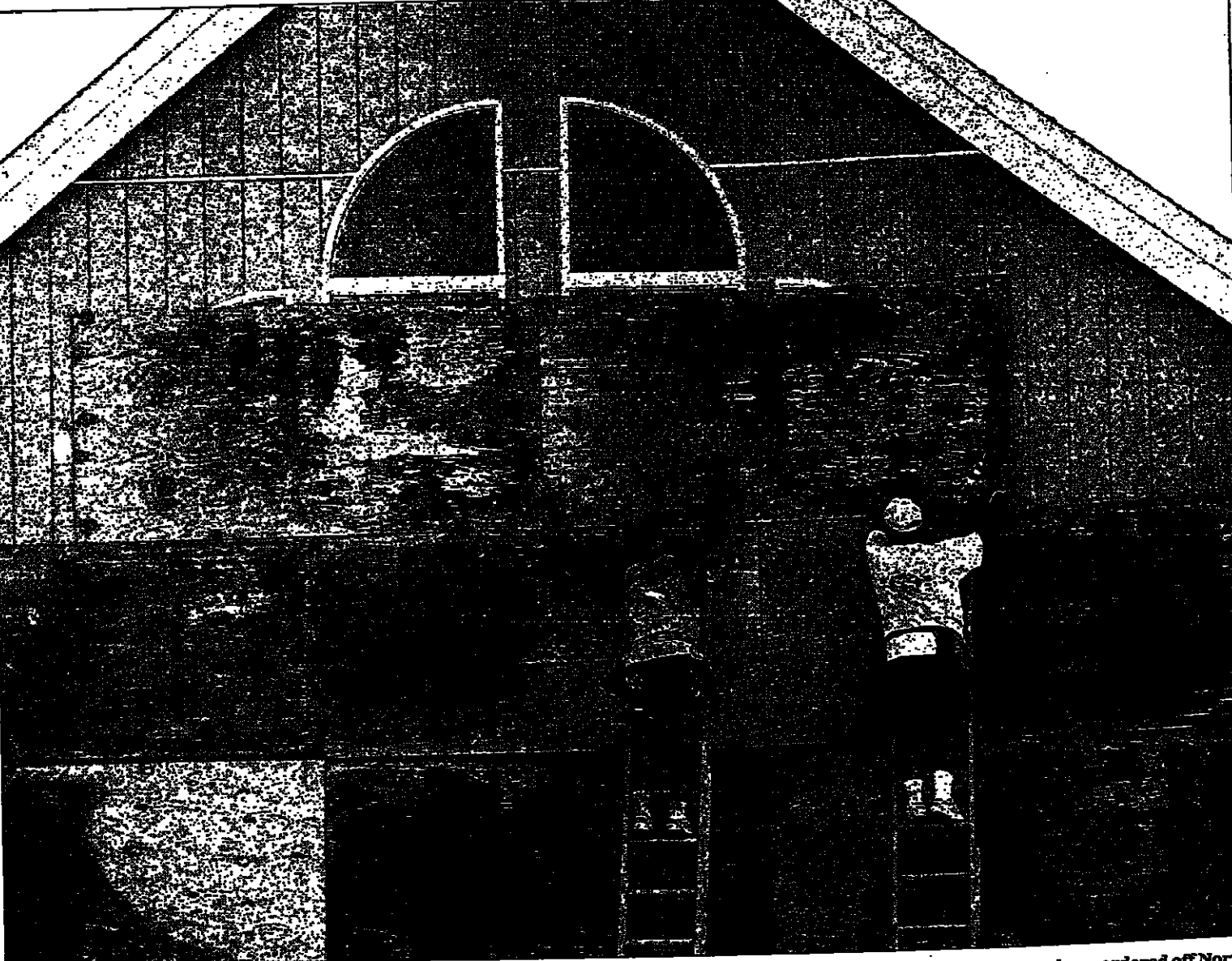
But the issue has come to a head since Italy qualified earlier this year to take part in European monetary union. As long as it was trying to meet the EMU criteria the government could dismiss calls for more money to be spent on job creation.

But Italy is due to table its first budget since qualifying before the end of September. As critics, notably in Germany and Holland, had feared, the pressure is mounting for some belt-tightening.

Mr Treu whipped up a storm of criticism last month, when he voiced thoughts that few outside the breakaway Northern League are prepared to enunciate.

"Let's be honest," he said on a visit to a poor town in Calabria. "Here we are fighting against centuries of non-business. When I talk to my European counterparts, I realise that no other country, while it might have depressed regions, has a region so deeply and historically in difficulty as our Mezzogiorno. Here there are problems of law and order, of government departments that don't work, of corruption, of educational shortcomings."

He went on: "People have got to understand that there are no magic solutions which will change things from one day to another... Public disorder in our city squares won't solve a thing."



Eastern US braced for Bonnie's 115mph winds

TROPICAL storm-force winds and rain lashed the southern Atlantic coast of the United States yesterday as the edge of Hurricane Bonnie reached the mainland. More than 500,000 people have been ordered to flee.

Hurricane warnings were

in effect across a 500-mile stretch of coastline, and workmen, including those pictured above covering windows in the Sandbridge resort area of Virginia Beach, prepared for the imminent battering.

The national weather service was predicting that the

heart of the 400-mile-wide storm, with sustained winds of 115mph, could reach the mouth of the Cape Fear river in North Carolina by late yesterday.

Swimming was banned at beaches as far north as Massachusetts.

More than 330,000 people

have been ordered off North Carolina's coastal islands and about 200,000 more, including 120,000 tourists, told to leave South Carolina's northern-most coastal counties. A state of emergency has been declared in Virginia. — AP.

PHOTOGRAPH: BILL TIERMAN

Muscovites stop counting on roubles

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

BEFORE taking their place at the back of the queue, depositors approached the front to find out if and when the bank would reopen.

"In half an hour," said Irina Zhumatova, a pensioner, jealously guarding her number one spot. "They're out to lunch."

She could easily have been referring to the whole Russian government. With the Central Bank simply refusing to sell dollars for roubles at any rate of exchange on the inter-bank Moscow currency market yesterday — trade had been "annulled" it said — the whole Russian economy has been cast into jeopardy.

"My savings are in roubles. I think the bank still has them," said Mrs Zhumatova. "If I get them back, I'm going to spend them quickly on anything. There's no point in keeping roubles now."

Any lingering confidence Russians still had in their currency died yesterday. To protect themselves from the rouble's slide, people with cash are beginning to buy and hoard whatever they can. Dollars are almost impossible to buy on the streets, so people are turning to gold and silver.

Trade in jewellery is brisk. "We have not yet raised our prices," read an advertisement in one jeweller's window.

The acting prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, has admitted what everyone knows — that banks will collapse — but has not said what his response will be. Sergei Dubinin, the discredited governor of the Central Bank, has made a vague pledge to protect all personal savings accounts, but he too has not provided details. With the collapse yesterday of Russia's 13th largest bank, Bank Imperial, depositors are expecting the worst.

"My bank will not give me my dollar savings, either today, tomorrow or next week," said Mikhail Kubov, aged 30, an insurance assessor, queuing outside a branch of Menatep, the 7th biggest bank in Russia.

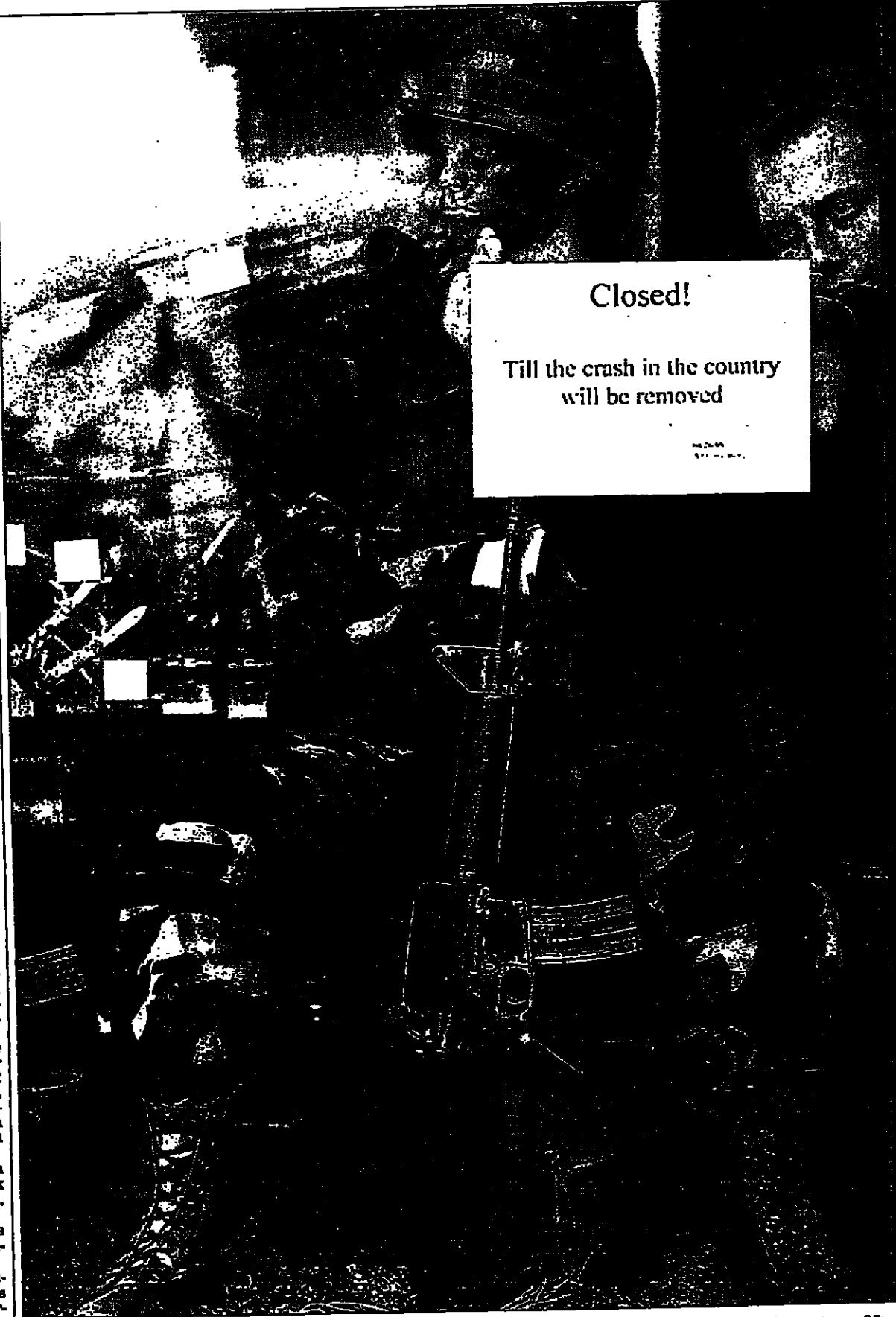
"They told me to fill in a form last week, come back this week and wait in line, but I know it's hopeless."

The bank had closed for a "technical break" and posted apologies on its door.

"Menatep regrets the inconvenient closure of its department for hard currency deposits... if necessary, clients will have the opportunity to transfer their hard currency accounts to Sberbank [the state savings bank]. We are preparing a mechanism for this operation."

That "mechanism" does not yet exist. Banks hover in limbo, technically bankrupt but not yet officially dead. Like everyone else, they await political developments.

"Legally I have a right to my savings," said Mr Kubov, before realising the ab-



An arms store in St Petersburg posts a temporary closure sign yesterday. The rouble crisis has hit importers of foreign goods particularly hard and made the guns stocked in the shop unsaleable

surdity of what he had just said and laughing.

Those with dollar accounts will get little sympathy from ordinary Russians who have no roubles, let alone dollars.

At first, the banking crisis will be felt most keenly by the tiny middle class whose recent emergence was taken as proof of the success of "reform". But the poor will suffer from

the knock-on effects. Rampant inflation looks inevitable as the expectation of rising prices prompts buying sprees, which in turn fuel inflation.

Several banks simply closed yesterday, advising clients to go to a small number of branches where they could queue to register their requests.

Even the small foreign-exchange shops which have

done a roaring trade, buying and selling dollars over the last week, shut up shop.

Why sell a dollar today for 10 roubles, when tomorrow it could be worth 20 or even 30? In a week it could be worth 100.

"If you have dollars in your hands now the best thing to do is to go home, go to bed and wait for them to rise in value," said Henryk Kasparian, a shop

manager.

With the prospect of a worthless rouble, trade is grinding to a halt.

"I've just lost a huge contract from a biscuit manufacturer," said a Russian advertising executive. "No one I know is doing business. How can they? What price should they trade at? What currency should they use? You can't use the dollar because it's officially illegal."

Turkey defies Europe over compensation for Cyprus seizure

Martin Walker unravels a human rights ruling

TURKEY could be expelled from the Council of Europe for saying it will defy a European Court of Human Rights ruling that it should compensate a Greek Cypriot tourist guide for the loss of her home after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

Already at loggerheads with the European Union, which has refused to make it a candidate for membership, Turkey is now on a collision course with the one European body to which it does belong, just as the United States and Britain are working to lock it into the European system.

Ankara has officially denounced the court judgment saying it "lacks the means of applicability or of implementation". But the Council of Europe's committee of ministers is legally required to enforce the court's rulings, and the stage is set for confrontation when it meets in Strasbourg on September 14.

The test case was brought in 1989 by Titina Loizidou under Article 50 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states: "Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions."

Having decided that the Turkish authorities violated her rights by denying her access to her property — some plots of land and an unfinished apartment building — the court has awarded her compensation of 300,000 Cyprus pounds, plus 20,000 pounds "moral damages" and 137,000 pounds costs, amounting in all to £544,000.

"I am not so much interested in the money, because what I miss of my home in Kyrenia cannot be counted in money," Mrs Loizidou said in Nicosia yesterday.

"I inherited this land of olive and carob trees from my grandfather and we can trace our roots back for five generations. I hope this court verdict is a victory for human rights for all Cypriots, Greek as well as Turkish."

Enforcing this judgment is not a battle the Council of Europe wants to fight. It has always said the place to resolve the Cyprus dispute is the United Nations-sponsored talks between the Greek and Turkish communities on the island.

But the ruling forces it to make Turkey comply, or sabotage the authority of the court.

"The stakes are very high," a council spokesman said yesterday. "Given the importance of the court and of human rights to this organisation, it is unthinkable that the Council of Europe will not take its obligations seriously."

The council, whose 40 members include Cyprus, Greece and Russia as well as all the



'I'm not so much interested in the money, because what I miss of my home in Kyrenia cannot be counted in money' Titina Loizidou

EU states, can suspend or expel a member which defies the court: a sanction applied against Greece 30 years ago when it was under military rule. So far, no member state has failed to obey a Court of Human Rights decision.

Even if the council tries for political reasons to duck or to defer the issue, the ruling entitles Mrs Loizidou to ask any court in Europe to help enforce the judgment. Lawyers in Cyprus are now looking at sizeable assets such as Turkish Airlines property and aircraft. Ankara is planning to privatise the airline, and the legal threat could affect the sale price.

"Turkey has no jurisdiction on the island," a Turkish embassy spokesman in London said. "Even though the court may condemn Turkey, we will not pay the money and will apply for an appeal."

The Cypriot attorney-general, Aikios Markides, says the ruling is of "historic significance", and hundreds of similar cases are now in the pipeline: up to 200,000 Greek Cypriots may have legal grounds to join them. On the basis of Mrs Loizidou's award, the eventual compensation bill could exceed \$5 billion.

But the political implications of the judgment outweigh the money. In addition to awarding compensation for

the denial of access, the court put the blame squarely on Turkey, thus rejecting the Turkish claim that the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus was the legal authority concerned.

The TRNC, denounced by Cyprus as a Turkish puppet regime, is recognised as a state only by Turkey.

The Turkish government, beset by Islamic fundamentalists and nationalists, and Westerners who want to join the EU, has little room to manoeuvre. Defying the court would strengthen the hand of Greek and other critics who claim that Turkey's human rights record makes it unfit to apply for EU membership.

The legal strategy was devised by Mrs Loizidou's Cypriot lawyer, Achilles Demetriades, a member of the British bar, after he spent a month of work experience at the Court of Human Rights 10 years ago.

"This case shows that the system works, and that the Court of Human Rights lived up to its name," he said yesterday. "In the event that Turkey does not pay, we will have to consider taking legal action in a Council of Europe member state in order to enforce the court judgment."

This would probably not be Britain, since the Convention on Human Rights has not yet been fully incorporated into British law.

مكتبة المجلد



Sudanese women carry placards and shout slogans denouncing the West at a demonstration outside the United Nations headquarters in Khartoum

PHOTOGRAPH BY ENRIC MARTI

Envoys' loyalties split in Sudan

David Hirst in Khartoum

THE British ambassador to Sudan, Alan Goulty, still savours the pleasures of his lush garden in the heart of this dilapidated city. His "withdrawal" is supposed to depend on Sudan's ambassador in London doing the same. And that has not yet happened.

It is a bizarre diplomatic incident that may well end in no departures at all.

Sudan's desire to punish Britain has been prompted by one thing only: Tony Blair's alacrity in giving his whole-hearted endorsement to the US raid on Afghanistan and Sudan.

But Sudan's apparent reluctance to push the matter stems from a number of things. One, said a European ambassador, is that they well know that even Mr Blair had no more than half an hour's warning of the raid.

They also know that most European diplomats here are as aghast at the raid, and above all the choice of target, as they are. If anything, the diplomats are more shocked because, as one Sudanese official said, "We are delighted at what the Americans did for its propaganda potential."

And they are certainly deeply embarrassed at having to justify an action in which none of them believes. Some diplomats privately

vately say as much outright: there is simply no way Shifa Pharmaceutical Industries could have been producing the precursors of chemical weapons.

Others express grave doubts. "There was absolutely nothing secret about the plant and there never has been," said a senior European diplomat.

He pointed to a paradox apparent to any visitor. Despite the government's dreadful reputation abroad, Sudan is one of the most open and relaxed Arab countries. "You just don't need permission to enter places — even the president's office," he said.

That was true, he says, of the plant. Any Western businessman or expert in-

terested in doing business with the company — and there must have been scores — would have been invited to spend as much time as they wanted there. That is not the stance one associates with top secret installations.

"The truth is that El Shifa was a model of market-oriented capitalism," said the diplomat. "Its destruction would be a great loss to the Sudan, less — in strictly economic terms — because of its human medicaments but because of its veterinary ones. The Sudanese livestock industry is a current success story, it exported over \$100 million (\$261 million) last year."

Since the Gulf war ended, he says, Sudan has been

strictly monitored in accordance with the chemical weapons precursor substances convention to which all industrialised countries have signed up and which bans the export of any substance on the proscribed list.

A tight monitoring system means it would have been practically impossible for any such substances to have entered Sudan unnoticed.

Apart from the injustice of punishing a country for what it does not appear to have done, European diplomats believe the target was particularly ill-chosen.

"So far as we know," said one, "the US has never formally accused Sudan of trying to produce chemical weapons, but it has accused

it of harbouring international terrorists. Why on earth did it not hit those — as it did in Afghanistan? ... Perhaps it didn't because, in reality, there are no such bases."

The diplomats concede that there may have been such bases in the past, but in recent years the regime has been making a serious effort to clean up its reputation.

At most, they believe, there may be some "wanted" Egyptians here. But they do not have bases and have only been given refuge because Cairo refuses to explain why they are wanted. The diplomats regard the US raid as a curious reward for improved behaviour.

South Africa united in fury at Cape bombers

David Bernstein in Johannesburg

THE bomb in Cape Town's Planet Hollywood restaurant which killed one person and injured 27 — including five members of a British family — was condemned across the political spectrum in South Africa yesterday.

Responsibility for Thursday's blast in a popular tourist area was claimed by an organisation called Muslims Against Global Oppression.

But a spokesman for the group denied it, saying they were being "set up".

An extremist group of Muslim fundamentalists, also involved in a vigilante campaign against gangsters in the Cape Town area, was widely being held to blame for the atrocity.

The attack was condemned by unions, business groups, political parties and individuals ranging from President Nelson Mandela to leaders of conservative Afrikanerdom.

A presidential spokesman said Mr Mandela was "shocked and angry", while the police minister, Sidney Mufamadi, blamed the explosion on "local operatives" working on behalf of "international terrorism".

"I think that incident must be seen against the backdrop of recent events in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam," said Mr Mufamadi. "Shortly after the news of those incidents, we took urgent measures to step up security at official US buildings here."

Police said members of an FBI team investigating the recent bomb attacks on the US embassies in east Africa were on their way to South Africa to assess whether the atrocities were linked. The US embassy in Pretoria warned American citizens in South Africa to take special care of their safety.

Tourist officials predicted it would have a long-term impact on the industry, which has been mushrooming in

South Africa and particularly in Cape Town.

Three calls were made to radio and newspaper journalists claiming the attack had been the work of Muslims Against Global Oppression, a group which surfaced during President Bill Clinton's recent visit to Cape Town.

The group is believed to be controlled by Qibla, an organisation of Muslim extremists which is also reputed to run People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad). It has been conducting a "holy war" against criminals in the Coloured townships of the Cape flats.

The anti-crime campaign by Pagad has become muddied by vigilante violence, including the use of "pipe bombs" against its critics within the Muslim community. In July they bombed the home of a lecturer at the city's university, Ebrahim Moosa, after denouncing him as a "traitor".

Qibla was founded in the 1980s. Using the slogan of "One Solution, Islamic Revolution", it identified with Iran where a number of its members are believed to have undergone military training.



Muslims opposed to the bombing pray outside the restaurant yesterday

The grandmother's nightmare

IRIS GIDDINGS, who escaped with minor injuries, arranged an outing to the restaurant for her two grandchildren, only to see them maimed.

Laura, aged eight, lost her left foot. Jacob, three, has spinal injuries. Both are in intensive care in the City Park hospital in Cape Town.

The children's mother, Mandy, aged 35, and Mrs Giddings' husband Brian, aged 65, are stable after surgery for shrapnel wounds. Their father Tony, aged 38, from Branshaw, near Southampton, was satisfactory after a suffering a broken leg.

"We had just arrived and

were being shown to our seats when the whole place was torn apart," Mrs Giddings said at her hotel yesterday.

"There was a flash and then everything went dark as the ceilings and walls seemed to come down upon us. I was knocked down and saw all my family lying injured before me."

"It was one of the most terrible things I can imagine seeing — there was absolute chaos and my family were all terribly hurt before me."

A hospital spokesman said the "particularly distressing" injuries suffered by the children would mean a long recovery in hospital.

Heavy cost of Mugabe's ego

Andrew Meldrum in Harare

ZIMBABWE'S state-owned newspapers give the impression that the whole country, and the rest of Africa, is cheering the deployment of Zimbabwean troops in Congo.

"Zimbabweans applaud intervention," proclaimed a front-page headline.

President Robert Mugabe has played a role similar to that of Winston Churchill during the second world war," said the Sunday Mail.

There is a different mood on the taxi-rans taking ordinary Zimbabweans to work.

"Why are we in this war? It has nothing to do with us. We

want our children back, not fighting in somebody else's jungle," said Mabel Ndo, a Harare shop manager.

The 11 other people crowded into the van nodded and grunted in agreement. A man added: "Our economy is already in a terrible state, how can we afford this war? I think Mugabe is getting emeralds from Kabila, lots of emeralds."

Security sources in Zimbabwe estimate that up to 1,000 Zimbabwean troops have been sent to Congo, supported by 10 transport planes, 10 helicopters and six ground-attack planes.

The state-owned arms manufacturer Zimbabwe Defence Industries recently provided Mr Kabila with weapons and supplies worth an estimated \$10 million, but has not yet been paid. The troop deployment will quickly add to that cost: military sources put it at \$20,000 a day.

Zimbabwe's economy is at its weakest since independence in 1980, and an unbridled expense like a protracted involvement in Congo could create even more hardship for its people.

Then there is the human cost. Although the army says it has suffered no casualties, air force sources say injured Zimbabwean soldiers, airlifted from Kinshasa, have filled the small hospital at Manyame air force base in Harare. The less seriously injured are being sent to other Harare hospitals.

The bodies of Zimbabwean soldiers killed in Congo are being brought back, too. Once this news reaches the general population, objections to Zimbabwe's involvement in Congo are bound to increase.

Facing mounting economic and political challenges at home, Mr Mugabe has been desperately seeking scapegoats and distractions. With the Congolese conflict he is painting himself as Africa's key leader who must settle the continent's conflict.

Zimbabwe's independent Sunday Standard newspaper puts it more bluntly.

"When body bags begin to arrive from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a fitting epitaph for the dead sons of Zimbabwe would be 'They died so that Mugabe's ego could flourish'."

Kinshasa under curfew as rebels enter outskirts

THE Congolese capital woke yesterday to the sound of artillery and small arms fire on the outskirts, of the city, writes David Gough in Kinshasa.

Its five million people were told to stay at home, road blocks were set up, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed. The few reports that filtered through spoke of deserted streets.

Three Westerners working in an office a mile from the Intercontinental Hotel in central Kinshasa said they had to pass through 10 checkpoints to get back to the hotel when the fighting intensified.

Journalists were confined to their hotels and camera crews reduced to filming from their balconies as troops and trucks hurried towards the south-eastern edge of the city.

One British, the other South African, were arrested by soldiers who burst into their hotel room after they were spotted filming troop movements.

Mwenze Kongo, the justice minister, said a maximum of 300 rebels entered the outskirts of the city on Tuesday night in an attempt to attack the airport.

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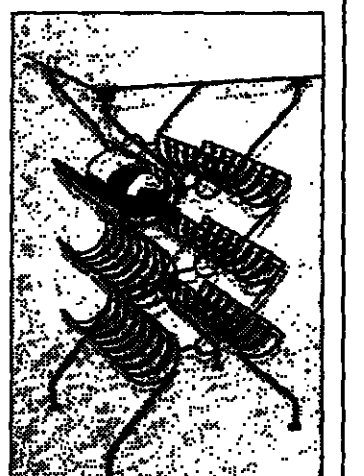
73 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

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Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

HISTORY repeats itself. The first time as tragedy, the second as farce. No one, it seems, is keener to demonstrate Marx's axiom than the cyborg MP for Peterborough, Helen Brinton. "Just as Princess Diana sat on her own outside the Taj Mahal," she recalled this week, "I sat on my own outside the Queensgate Centre greeting constituents." This is just one of a series of controversial parallels she has drawn since the insertion of her newly developed empathy chip. "Diana had to put on a smile when her heart was breaking," she continues, "and that's what I do." Prince Charles never said "we'll do it" to Diana. My husband never offered his support when I was fighting for my seat. Both of us have to put on a brave face and both not wanting to eat." The chip is just a prototype at present, and does have its side effects. Most notably it can interfere with her party loyalty. R.A.M. cussing her to publicly turn on "stupid and undermining" parliamentary colleagues, referring to them as "the enemy". With some work, however, Millbank is hopeful that the empathy chip will be a fully operational tool for anticipating public opinion by the next general election.

THE Labour Party's 1,000 Club wrote to MEP Brinton last week inviting him to join up. (Members of the 1,000 Club, by the way, "play an integral role in developing every aspect of Labour Party activity" — and they give cash — "and in recognition of this support, they are invited to occasional events and receive regular briefings on Labour's progress.") Unfortunately, having been expelled from the Labour Party for speaking out of turn, Hugh admits it is unlikely that he'll be taking up the offer.

ANOTHER alarming letter finds its way to the Diary desk from Her Majesty's most bearded and some say dangerous house guest, Charles Bronson. It is addressed to Paul Ravillous, Charles' mayoral campaign co-ordinator, and concerns the looking in his "secret cabinet" plans to this column last week. "You could well have lost it for me," writes Charles. "I feel I want to break your skull open, but now I'm a pacifist so I head-butted my door 38 times and got one of my bad headaches. Think yourself lucky I'm in Max Secure." Eventually his rage welled: "It was my dream to become London Mayor — all the chaps were rooting for me. Anyway, you're sacked. Oh, and I want my crocodile suitcase back this week, or I'll send Chaiusaw Charles around to collect. It was left from Colonel Gaddafi — he won't be pleased either." Sorry Charles. Good effort, but you're still not as scary as Lord Archer.

THE Diary's People-Friendly Guide to New Labour Lexicon is this week looking at Tony Blair's definition of the word "One Nation Radicalism". Dorien Thomas of Pontypriid telephones to ask if it is helpful to note that this is an acronym of "a non-direction, alas". No, it is not. Dorien. We hold no truck with your word wizardry. If New Labour stands for anything, it stands for substance. No time wasters please.

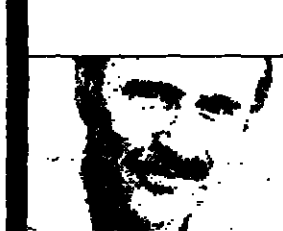
CHINA'S northwest province of Xinjiang is suffering its worst locust infestation in a decade, reports Xinhua news agency, with a quarter of grass-covered plains in the remote Muslim region said to be affected and the insects now moving on to housing and office areas. With ground forces and aircraft doing little to curb the swarms, the desperate authorities have rushed an elite platoon of 10,000 killer chickens through a 60-day training programme and sent them into the area. Outside observers the Diary has spoken to fear this might lead to Egyptian Plagues Syndrome (EPS) when the killer chicken population swells to unmanageable proportions and China is forced to train up an army of foxes. After foxes will come huns and hounds, then saboteurs, and so on.



Why the proposed anti-terrorism laws are undemocratic and unlikely to work

Less of the emoting and more clear thinking please, Mr Blair

Michael White



LIKE most newspapers, the Daily Mail is quick to spot an irony in government policy. Yesterday it reproached Tony Blair for rushing to introduce draconian anti-terrorist laws after years of Labour opposition to such measures. But what made Tony Blair lash out in the emotional way he did after the Real IRA's bomb killed 28 people in Omagh? What made him recall parliament in September for the first time since the 1992 election? What made him graft the bill curbing global terrorist conspiracy, long-promised and long-postponed, on to what was essentially a bit of Irish politicking?

There are various answers, most of them unsatisfying. A gesture (it may not prove much more than that) towards curbing Islamic terrorism is helpful to Bill Clinton after the wanton slaughter in East (and now South?) Africa. Mr Blair feels the politically indebted to his beleaguered ally, not least for his help over Ireland, even though neither man is showing much consistency in their

response to terrorist atrocity. No cruise missiles threaten the Real IRA in Dundalk and, as recently as Sunday, Mr Blair penned an article for the Observer (he actually wrote this one himself, we were told) gratuitously ruling out SAS tactics for dealing with the ramp IRA — a liberal tar tactics in Thatcherite terms — in favour of winning the democratic argument. But the desire among governments to "do something" in the wake of an outrage is always strong: hence last week's promises of draconian measures from Ireland's Bertie Ahern, eagerly matched in Whitehall. The fact that the prime minister and most senior colleagues were on holiday at the time must have strengthened that reflex.

But there is more to it than that. New Labour in general, and Mr Blair in particular, have a weakness for the emotional over the rational response. Watching him taking love-affair with the Mail (the political equivalent of serial monogamy) is no coincidence. So Blair's social conservatism, if not his political radicalism, chimes with the

Mail's more than it does with the Sun. Moreover, he is much more than Thatcher, a pragmatist, not anchored by a particular set of political principles, not interested in ideas in the way she was (however naively, so Tory thinkers frown).

Pragmatists are notoriously susceptible to fashion, dogmatically so you might say. Marry that tendency to focus group marketeering, to New Labour's determination to dominate the media agenda in Government as it did in Opposition and you get a powerful headline-making machine. It has worked brilliantly so far and we should never rule out the possibility that rancorous headlines distillation and snail-mail ministers to do good by stealth, as Jack Straw has done over asylum procedures. But the risks of cumulative disappointment are obvious.

Last month's "good guys" in Sierra Leone are hanging people this month. And not even the Mail would want some future liberator, a Garibaldi or Mandela, locked up in his London exile, not just for a day's headlines.

One recalled his anguished look the day Princess Diana died

"How dreadful," she said. "We must catch them." Blair's instinct is similar. He admires her incisive style and has more than a touch of her authoritarian populism in his make-up. Their mutual love-affair with the Mail (the political equivalent of serial monogamy) is no coincidence. So Blair's social conservatism, if not his political radicalism, chimes with the

George Monbiot

THE underhoused people of Wandsworth, in south London, know precisely what they want. When we direct activists from The Land is Ours, we are evicted two years ago from the great tract of derelict land beside Wandsworth Bridge, they continued the fight for affordable housing, a riverside park and a community centre. They organised a huge consultation exercise, and presented the unequivocal results to Wandsworth Borough Council. But no one is obliged to listen to them.

The poor and vulnerable have already been squeezed out of most parts of the borough, and the rich and heedless zoned in. So Sir Norman Foster and Rialto Homes know that their proposal, presented last month, is likely to fall on fertile ground. Four gigantic apartment blocks, rising to 20 stories, will be built along the riverfront to house 740 luxury flats — 32 of them will be three-bedroom penthouses, likely to sell for several million pounds each. There will be parking for nearly 1,000 cars, and a most will be built between the new homes and the crumbling ex-council estates across the road. There will be no affordable housing, no riverside park and no community centre. There will, however, be a new police station on the site: the owners of the penthouse suites won't have any trouble from the neighbours.

Local people are horrified but not surprised. Wandsworth's military development plan, which recommends that no structure above six stories be built beside the Thames, has been flouted repeatedly, not least by the Government's own adviser on urban regeneration, Lord Rogers, whose luxury Montevetro Tower, just down the river from the Land is Ours site, also rises to a supercilious 20 storeys.

But where, the impoverished people of Wandsworth keep asking, will the new buyers come from? The rise in housing demand, the Government has repeatedly asserted, comes largely from single people seeking relatively low-cost homes. Yet, all over London and the South-east, new three-bedroom apartments and five-bedroom executive mansions are being built. How could there be enough buyers

to go round? I think I may have just stumbled upon the answer.

While looking for something quite different last week, I came across a remarkable article in Gulf News, published in Dubai. It was a report from last year's Worldwide Property and Investment Show, organised in Dubai by British agents. Among the exhibitors were some of Britain's most successful luxury house-builders. "Both UK experts and Arab nationals," the traders excited, "are looking to spend anything from \$70,000 for a small rural retreat to around \$2 million for a smart central London address..." (The product appeals to the executive who already owns a UK property and is seeking a substantial second home.)

One of the most prominent exhibitors was Persimmon Homes, which, like Rialto, is building luxury flats on the Thames in Wandsworth. Its sales director made no attempt to disguise the nature of his business. "All my serious enquiries here are from investors, not those requiring a home," she boasted.

AMONG the non-homes she had sold in Dubai were apartments in the estate Persimmon is building close to the Thames at Kingston. To ensure that the purchasers of its flats enjoyed an uninterrupted view of the river, Persimmon insisted that the council remove the trees in Canbury Gardens, one of the best-loved parks in the borough, be felled. The council meekly complied, to the fury of residents, who occupied the trees for four months last winter.

Dubai is not the only place in which our property companies have been selling the homes that they tell us have to be built to meet Britain's housing needs. A survey by London Residential Research reveals that, astonishingly, 50 per cent of all the new homes built in central and inner London in the first half of the last financial year were sold to buyers in the Far East. Foster and Rialto seem to know this: the third member of their consortium is a company from Singapore.

A few months ago, local authorities presented Hilary Armstrong, the housing minister, with proposals for punitive rates of council tax on second homes. She decided not to adopt them. Nothing, in other words, will be done to ensure that houses are built for living in, rather than for speculation. The Labour Government, like Wandsworth's Conservative council, has chosen to side with greed and against need.

Thrown out of court

Michael Mansfield

PEACE and justice cannot be divorced. Without a clear commitment to the implementation of social and legal justice, the democratic process and the peace initiative in Northern Ireland will become seriously dented. It is easy to talk of rights and duties when there is a threat to the society which proposed to espouse them, the real test is whether these fundamental principles can withstand the pressures of extreme and violent protagonists.

There is equally outrageous outrage in Bosnia and Serbia and in Central Africa but we do not suddenly slough off the mantle of human rights — quite the reverse. There is a justifiable desire to see these enforced even to the extent of moving towards an International Criminal Court in The Hague supported by the UK Government. It is that same government which professes an ethical foreign policy vis a vis the arms trade and human rights and which is in the process of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

At the same time, how often is it that the judicial shortcomings of other jurisdictions are rightly highlighted. Outside observers the Diary has spoken to fear this might lead to Egyptian Plagues Syndrome (EPS) when the killer chicken population swells to unmanageable proportions and China is forced to train up an army of foxes. After foxes will come huns and hounds, then saboteurs, and so on.

foregone conclusions. It is necessarily difficult in such an emotionally charged atmosphere, where there is an overwhelming desire for "something to be done" and "for someone to be removed from the streets" to examine the relevance and ramifications of the current proposals. In short, they are incompatible with the articles of the European Convention concerning fair trial and the presumption of innocence, and furthermore they will do little towards achieving the claimed objective.

At their heart is the totally unacceptable proposition that a senior police officer's evidence about membership of a

particular proscribed organisation will be admissible in court proceedings and that non-cooperation by the suspect is capable of amounting to corroboration for the assertions of his officer. There are substantial objections to such a procedure. How will the officer provide his evidence? It is likely to be a belief based on hearsay or information and it will either be incapable of further proof or will be subject to the much invoked PII (Public Interest Immunity) provisions because the sensitivity of the source is such that any examination by the suspect or his representative is precluded. Since such groups or

organisations do not have membership cards and lists this type of material on which this belief is founded is bound to be ephemeral and tenuous. All of this is but a short step from this infamous and discredited internment procedure whereby the Home Secretary, upon advice from a senior police or security services officer, might authorise the detention of those considered to be subversive. A court will be placed in the evidentially impossible position prior to verdict of deciding whether it believes the police officer's belief? This is particularly poignant where in Northern Ireland we are dealing with police force whose credibility is far from sound, which has lost the confidence of a large sector of the community; and whose future is to be examined by a commission under Chris Patten.

The most important and singular lesson of the miscarriage of justice cases starting with Guildford and Birmingham through to Maitland and others this year is that the horrific nature of some crimes and the pressure to secure convictions is such that those responsible for investigating them sacrifice evidence for belief.

It is misleading to call these proposals tough and effective. They are neither. They will do no more than the Prevention of Terrorism Act did to counter terrorism in the wake of the Birmingham Pub bombing (vide Clive Walker's searing analysis in his book, The Prevention of Terrorism in British Law). That Act also contained provisions about membership of proscribed organisations. They have been rarely used and hardly any convictions have been

recorded. Both then and now the public is being lulled into a false sense of security by a government anxious to be seen to be doing something "dracoonian". The real point is that there can be no substitute for a proper, thorough investigation which provides clear reliable evidence of participation in particularised cultural activities. It has been shown over the past decade that this can be achieved in a large number of cases. Anything short of this is a return to primitive summary justice in which more innocents will become embroiled.

Michael Mansfield QC is a leading defence lawyer

Wrong tactics, wrong target

Kevin Toolis

THERE is no good time for a democratic government to curtail the rights of its citizens but the worst possible time is in the wake of an atrocity like the Omagh bombing.

Recalling parliament to rubber stamp a M15 agenda on how to lock the wrong sort of people up without proper evidence may seem effective public relations but it is a foolish way to make laws and a foolish way to govern.

Let us assume that Mickey McKevitt, for whom this wholesale revision of our criminal codes is almost personally directed at, decides to take refuge in Her Majesty's jurisdiction, perhaps London, and is arrested.

Does anyone seriously believe that the subsequent kangaroo tribunal of sorts at the Old Bailey, with its parade of biased police witnesses by the state, will be anything other than internment by another name?

Does anyone believe that Mr McKevitt will receive a fair trial or any trial at all based on such distorted legal procedures? Would the accused be entitled to call other police officers who might dispute the opinion of the man from RUC headquarters? Or that conviction of an Irish republican on the word of a British police officer is likely to command widespread support in Ireland.

But of course the Government is in a Catch 22 situation. Under the proposed Act, refusal to answer police questions in relation to such a show trial would be adduced as further evidence of guilt!

To make things easier, perhaps the "court" will allow the Crown to protect the identity of the senior officer with a screen — no doubt for fear of reprisals. In fact given the secret unknown nature of the evidence against the accused why bother with the sham trappings of a courthouse? Why not intern him

directly from the place of arrest to Her Majesty's New Internment Camp 1998? It sounds farcical because it is. It is not, as democratic citizens, who are diminished by such laws, not the Real IRA. And these foolish proposed laws will still be on our statute books, ready to be abused by the state and any future authoritarian Home Secretary, long after Mr McKevitt is forgotten.

The same arguments apply to the portions of the bill that are directed at foreign refugees in this country — whose democratic activities embarrassingly interfere with our trade interests with totalitarian regimes like Saudi Arabia.

The fundamental problem in Ireland is a political one not criminal. And no amount of tampering with the legal system by a British Government is going to solve the problem of republican terrorism. It is protest marches by the citizens of Dundalk to their homes the Real IRA fears, not internment statutes by the British.

Of course the argument will be put that this only brings the United Kingdom into line with legislation in the Republic but the brutal truth is that there are to the Irish that no Brit should ever contemplate. Interesting Mr McKevitt is not going to make the Real IRA and its sympathisers disappear. Instead it is likely to spread the pool of sympathy for men unjustly and arbitrarily imprisoned. Until now the Government's handling of the Irish Question has been remarkably adept and intelligent. But the "Omagh andism Bill" is a major blunder.



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mark II
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Letters to the
Price you pay
for knowledge
Spicy food fo

'The Portuguese brought about the invention of the dreadfully fiery vindaloo'
Colleen Grove, Letters

Goldsmith, mark II

A tyke pays the pipers

THE WORLD loves an outspoken tyke. Paul Sykes is a classic — gruff, curmudgeonly, not one to give you owt of his £250 million for nowt. He's as Yorkshire as they come: born in Barnsley, an inhabitant of Eland Road, he is the man who condescended over the Don Valley (left an industrial desert by his heroine Margaret Thatcher) to create the great retail complex at Meadowhall. Whether Mr Sykes is to be regarded as a hero or villain of the modern economy is a matter of taste. What's clear is that how he chooses to spend his cash is his affair — and we can only applaud his progressive view that leaving it to his children would prevent them making their own way in the world.

If he wants to spend money with this newspaper or any other media outlet, we are hardly likely to demur. If the anti-European advertisements he is proposing to run are reasonably factual, fine; if they provoke readers into fact-finding and further thought about European Monetary Union we would even applaud his philanthropy. He is right, the polls do say people want to know more. But he is wrong to imply that the puny efforts made so far by either the British government or the European Commission to provide information about EMU constitute some kind of outrageous pre-emption of the people's right to know. He might puzzle over why, unlike in Germany and France, British business has been so unforthcoming in telling customers and co-workers what it thinks, pro or con.

But Mr Sykes is on sticky ground in suggesting that common sense — for example people's weariness with exchange rate costs when they travel around Europe on holiday — is not a good guide. And when, as yesterday, Mr Sykes pretended his proposed campaign is not political or unlikely to have profound consequences for the Tory party he once supported, he is behaving with uncharacteristic guile and subtlety.

Sir James Goldsmith he is not. But Mr Sykes shares with him both vagueness of objective and the capacity severely to embarrass the leader of the Conservative Party. In his game protectionism and withdrawal from the European Union or the pipe dream of free trade without monetary union? Whichever, he gets to trump fellow Yorkshireman William Hague. The more precise his formula (wait and see, but wait a lot longer than Labour) the more the rent in the Tory party diminishes its potential voters. Mr Sykes is challenging him to move hardwards and there go Tony Marlow and Nicholas Budge importing Mr Sykes to bankroll electoral challenge to sitting Tories.

There is a reluctance on all sides to decide on the issue of monetary union. It may be growing. Who can predict what effects the Russian crisis, let alone deflation in the Far East, are going to have on growth rates in France and Germany, which have ticked up?

If the British right wing were just a little more interested in Europe, it might easily find comfort in the prospect of a Social Democratic victory in the German federal elections next month, with all that might imply for European Central Bank ground rules. Mr Sykes' desire to provide information will need to encompass regular (hourly?) updates on economic conditions. And if he contents himself with dreary

arguments about sovereignty he will only make us yawn.

If he cannot see that his repeated use of "our" is troublingly anachronistic in the context of a Britain undergoing great internal change — at least in Scotland, Ireland and Wales — he deserves the fate of all those other corporate chieftains who have sought to emerge, partyless, from the margins of politics to shake the world — a fast transit to oblivion.

The grade gap

Low achievers need help

THE leader of the biggest headteachers' union described today's GCSE results as "a tale of two contrasts" with the top end getting even better results and the bottom worse. There was a welcome increase in A and A* star grades. They now account for 14.7 per cent of all papers taken. There was a marginal increase in the proportion achieving grades C to A star, pushing up the proportion achieving this target level to 55 per cent of the 550,000 plus pupils taking the exam. But at the bottom end, several thousand more students failed to achieve even a G grade. These two trends — a rising number failing to get any GCSE passes and a widening of the gap between the top and bottom — are not new but remain the biggest challenge facing ministers. Three years ago the differences between the top and bottom had widened to a twofold gap: with the top 20 per cent gaining the equivalent in points of 12 C's and the bottom only achieving the equivalent of one C. Now the gap is even wider.

The aggregate numbers hide another problem: the differences between boys and girls. We don't yet have the gender break-

down for this year's results but over the last decade, the proportion of girls achieving grades A to C in five subjects has reached 50 per cent compared to only 40 per cent for boys. Local education authorities were challenged by ministers at the beginning of this year to come up with schemes to combat boys' "laddish, anti-learning culture". There is unlikely to have been much narrowing since then, but it is a challenge which must be met if the targets of successive governments are to be achieved. It is already clear that the last government's target, adopted by Labour on election, for the year 2000 — 85 per cent of 19-year-olds achieving five passes at GCSE grades A to C or their vocational equivalent — will not be met. Last year it only moved up from 68 to 70 per cent. This year's increase — the vocational boards have delayed releasing their results — is unlikely to be much higher.

What can be done to help nonachievers? It is worth remembering what has been achieved already. GCSE, which was only launched in 1986, replaced two separate and inflexible examinations (GCE and CSE) which only catered for 60 per cent of secondary pupils leaving 40 per cent with nothing to aim for. Headteachers have urged ministers to place less emphasis on A to C. A more relevant reform would be a wider and more relevant curriculum for the vocationally minded.

Summer movies

More theatres give less choice

IT MUST have been a common experience this summer for readers who fancied an evening out at the cinema to run through the list of programmes at the local multiplex and find only those films which sensible

critics had advised them to keep away from. No use, either, taking the car to the multiplex in the next town or the neighbouring suburb: despite the richness of choice which the move into multi-screen cinemas once promised to bring us, the same. Some who study these things have begun to argue that the quality of the movies on general release over the past few months is the worst it has ever been. Meanwhile, well-reviewed pictures like the one which stars Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde get a very limited showing. All those scenes where a man embraces another man: you can't show that kind of thing, it still seems to be thought, to the popcorn chombers of Swindon...

In the spring a movie called Wag the Dog arrived in Britain. This is the tale of a US president involved in a sex scandal who in the hope of distracting attention orders an attack on Albania. There is even a scene in which the president hugs his accuser. Since the Lewinsky affair came to the boil, and more especially since the US missile attacks on alleged terrorist bases, this instance of fiction anticipating fact has seemed more and more uncanny. The coincidence was even raised with the US government spokesman after last week's attacks. One might have thought that with all this free promotion the cinema chains would be bursting to get Wag the Dog back in front of the public. Yet this week it wasn't even listed in London; nor is it next. And many quite large centres in Britain have still had no chance to see it at all.

From weary experience one expects art movies to struggle to get a showing outside a few favoured locations where intellectuals are reputed to gather, but here, it seems, there is a solid commercial opportunity in letting the Dog Wag again. Why is nobody grabbing it?

Letters to the Editor

Price you pay for knowledge

ROY Hattersley's objection to a £300-a-year admission fee for use of the new British Library (Break this barrier, August 24) implies that other academic libraries are free. As a teacher, I have to pay £5 a day to use the nearby Institute of Education Library. If my tax-paying cannot enable my free entry to the academic library that I need, why should it subsidise users of the British Library? Smart-card technology could enable the British Library to charge a £10-£20 annual fee, with payment of, say, £5 for each day's usage, and enable free entry for the rest of the year once the ceiling of £300 had been reached. Margaret Ogden, London.

SADLY your diagram showing who makes what on the Airbus (BA pushes Airbus price down by £1bn, August 25) didn't show who makes the seats. It is the seats that make travelling on the Airbus hell. The best seats are on Lockheed planes, then Boeing then Dash, followed by Fokker. Airbus is way down the list. I shall do my best to avoid travelling by BA if the Airbus seats aren't changed. R D Wilcox, Warrminster, Wilts.

AS WE continue to learn more about most of us wanted to know about the sexual proclivities of the US president, the latest revelations do at least give us an appropriate theme tune for that inappropriate relationship. I refer of course to that gloriously obscene musical song, The End Of Me Old Cigar. S Saxby, Wrexham.

JUST in case Bill Clinton has any plans to return from Martha's Vineyard for the day, maybe he should be advised that August 27 is the Feast of St Monica. Chris McDonnell, Little Haywood, Staffs.

HOW super to read about Elizabeth Wurtzel's adorable friends (Why a guy won't say I do, G2, August 25) and their agreeable lifestyle. Could they be persuaded to show us their lovely home? Paul Bowen, London.

Panic makes bad laws

IF Parliament introduces legislation next week enabling people to be convicted of membership of a terrorist organisation on the word of a senior police officer (Labour widens terror net, August 26), then the Government has learnt nothing from past miscarriages of justice. Shortly before the Home Secretary referred the case of the Guildford Four back to the Court of Appeal in 1989, I interviewed Sir Peter Imbert, then the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Sir Peter had been responsible, 15 years earlier, for taking down "confessions" from two of the wrongly convicted four.

I asked him whether he had ever had any doubts about that case. His answer was a categorical No. If the most senior police officer in the land could get things so wrong over an actual bombing, how much more scope is there for wrongful convictions over mere membership of a proscribed organisation? Do we really need to learn all over again the lessons of the 1970s — that you don't detain a man for waging war on civil liberties? Steve Platt, London.

THIS is not the way to do things. It is panic, and it will destroy the carefully built peace. A settlement in Ireland

has always been made difficult by widespread tacit sympathy for the aims of the men of violence. I cannot believe the same feeling extends towards those behind the outrage in Omagh. Won't a revival of internment without trial simply bring back the old resentment against heavy-handed and wasteful Britain? Richard Hughes, Cowes, Isle of Wight.

IF they can stop behaving like Pavlov's dogs, MPs next week should pause and recall the words of William Pitt: "Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants, it is the creed of slaves." Tony Smythe, London.

AS a British Muslim I know that Islam does not condone the killing of innocent men, women or children by anyone.

I find Tony Blair's announcement of an intended series of "draconian and fundamental" security measures, designed to bring the home-land from an occupying force will now be called a terrorist. So if he manages to set up his khilafah in the UK, and I as a Briton oppose it by force, I won't be a terrorist, is that right? Name and address supplied.

sure are unjust and may only fuel unnecessary hatred and suspicions against Muslims in particular.

Terrorism, according to the English dictionary, means "the systematic use of violence and intimidation to achieve some goal". Mr Blair is himself supporting a clearly defined terrorist, President Clinton, who is killing and terrorising innocent people in Sudan and Afghanistan, for political ends. Mr Blair is therefore, by default, an accomplice to that terrorism. H Morrison, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

YOUR cartoon would have us believe that the new anti-terrorist measures are turning this country into "a truly authoritarian state". You then list a number of Islamic fundamentalist groups, based in London, "which make no secret of their passion for violence". Terry Philpot, Oxford, Surrey.

OMAR Bakri Mohammed fears that "any Muslim tried to liberate their homeland from an occupying force will now be called a terrorist". So if he manages to set up his khilafah in the UK, and I as a Briton oppose it by force, I won't be a terrorist, is that right? Name and address supplied.



Nobody forgets a good salary

GRADUATES spurning teaching (Report, August 26) is the logical consequence of the Government's refusal to raise salary levels to match those of other professions like law and medicine. The expensive and slick "Nobody forgets a good teacher" campaign will not lift recruitment.

As a 1988 graduate of modern languages with a masters degree obtained in 1996, I am about to embark on the PGCE course at London University. Having gained valuable experience teaching English for two years in France, I think it is my vocation and know that corporate life is not for me.

I currently work in a global blue-chip company earning more than I did last year as a qualified teacher. If I were to stay here, I could increase my salary significantly over the next few years. Of course new graduates are being lured into the private sector, as pay increments can be significant and starting salaries up to £20,000. A secretary in central London with only A-levels can earn up to and beyond £20,000.

Teaching salaries, despite the Government's insistence, are not competitive. If they were raised to match, or at least approach those of, say, lawyers (who like teachers, normally gain a first degree and complete a one-year conversion course), there would not be a 13 per cent drop in applications this year. Paul Hayward, London.

WHEREAS I support any programme to get the jobless back to work, your use of pupil-teacher ratios in your leader (August 24) is worrying. Schools need caretakers, dinner ladies and secretaries, not more teachers. Parents helping out in the class-room are a bonus. But these adults are not interchangeable. Please do not use any statistic which would encourage schools to save money by sacking a teacher and replacing him with two unqualified classroom assistants. Barry Marshall, Wigan.

Labour turns

FOR the record, there are no continuing police investigations into the activities of councillors in Hull (Council sleaze inquiries drag on, August 22). There has never been a police investigation into the council. The investigation by the Labour Party was invited by the council's leader and looked at the state of the party in the city.

Our problems emanated largely from the failure of opposition parties to make any significant impact. As a consequence, Labour in Hull had turned in and on itself. The party and Labour group are addressing the issues this raised vigorously. The council is still advanced on its own "Agenda for Change" and is likely to be amongst the first to remodel itself along the lines indicated by the local government white paper.

Cut and run

IN 1994 the director of the National Trust, speaking for the trust and for English Heritage, said of Stonehenge that "only... the long bored tunnel... meets the essential requirements of the World Heritage Site. There is no historic site where we shall uphold [our] duty with greater resolve." Why have they abandoned this solemn undertaking?

Dr Wainwright (Letters, August 21) refers to an "environmental balance sheet" favouring a cut-and-cover tunnel. A financial balance sheet perhaps, hardly an environmental one. What negative value on massive portals and the irreversible disturbance of the archaeology?

That we have a global icon in Stonehenge is shown by its repeated use as an advertisement for AT&T. Perhaps AT&T could help with the cost of the long bored tunnel. Lord Kennet, House of Lords.

FOR over 40 years I have felt spiritually uplifted when driving by Stonehenge. Are we now to be deprived of the view of this national treasure and sent underground, at the phenomenal cost to the taxpayer? Brian Pilkington, Bodmin, Cornwall.

Spicey food for thought

YASMIN Alibhai-Brown seems to be under the impression that all the food produced by Indian restaurants should remain a special preserve (Whose food is it anyway? August 25), the mysteries, delights and preparation of which to be only undertaken and understood by Asians.

The green chilli you sought in Oxford — Indian? Asian? I'm afraid not. It is actually a native of the Americas, as are the tomato, capsicum, potato and pumpkin. All are relative newcomers to the Asian kitchen taken there by the Portuguese, who actually brought about the invention of the dreadfully fiery vindaloo.

And those exotic spices? Saffron, cumin, basil, pistachio, almond — all taken by the legions to India — along with that pivotal Indian restaurant basic, the clay tandoor oven — from Persia. And sweetened condensed milk, relied upon for so many years, came from the rations of the British Tommy.

If the design was to further damage an industry which has had more than its fair share of detractors recently, you may just have hit a bulls-eye. Colleen Grove, Grove Publications, Surrey.

YOUR comment about "shockingly inexpensive South Asian food" may reflect

important social as well as culinary insights. Within easy walking distance of our street, Bradford's Asian community invites us to enjoy high-quality, low-price restaurants, offering a variety of styles that would make some Londoners weep with envy.

This is an area where a local greengrocer, surprised at how few green chillies I was buying, decided it wasn't worth charging for them. That may be a clue as to why people in one of Bradford's most deprived wards can create a relatively happy and relaxed lifestyle that draws in white immigrants.

While enlightened food experts in London understand something about living a good life in the midst of authentic South Asian cuisine, it is a

phenomenon on which metropolitan political and economic leaders might also care to reflect. Rev Geoff Reid, Bradford.

BRITISH eating habits were indeed debased, for a variety of reasons, and it is thanks to Asian cooking (ditto Italian and Chinese) that many of us now eat more interesting and healthy food. Who cares if the recipes are not authentic? So what if a lot of curry-and-lager fans are, well, common?

My first "curries" (36 years ago) were indeed gobbled partly because I was skint, but mainly because the food was both plentiful and exciting. Bill Scott, Glasgow.

The Very Reverend Edward Carpenter

Prayers and principles at the Abbey

EDWARD Carpenter, who has died aged 87, was connected with Westminster Abbey for an astonishing 34 years. He became a canon in 1951, served as treasurer from 1959-74, and from 1963-74 also filled the largely anomalous post of archdeacon of Westminster. In 1974 he was appointed by the Queen, on the advice of Harold Wilson, to succeed Eric Abbott as dean. He held the appointment until 1985, when he was made KCVO.

Dr Carpenter was a socialist by instinct, and for a long time he had walked at ease with politicians of a similar persuasion. He had also long been regarded as ripe for preferment, and it was to Wilson's credit that he put forward early in his second premiership the name not only of a friend but a man with spiritual and scholastic gifts.

Edward Carpenter was educated at Stoddes School, Egham, and at King's College, London, where he graduated

in 1932. Three years later, he became a bachelor of divinity and was ordained assistant deacon, obtaining his PhD in 1943. He served as assistant curate from 1935-41, at Holy Trinity, St Marylebone, and then at St Mary, Harrow, and in 1945 was inducted as rector of Great Stanmore. Six years later he joined the chapter at Westminster Abbey. He regretted never becoming rector of St Margaret's, Westminster, and chaplain to the Speaker, but remained silent on the subject of his appointment as dean was met by some who realised he was the first dean of Westminster in modern times not to have an Oxford degree.

Westminster Abbey was a powerhouse to run, with its incessant arrival of royalty and visiting heads of state, yet he seemed to combine this smooth running with an unhurried attention to writing and historical research that gave the impression he had squeezed 48 hours out of the working day.

Carpenter thought of himself primarily as a philosopher, and from his philosophical musings sprang pacifism, socialism, a horror of vivisection and a generally liberal attitude towards moral issues such as divorce. He had a passion for Byron, and was instrumental in having a memorial to 16 first world war poets installed in Poets' Corner.

He wrote a dozen books, including a life of St Paul, and, appropriately enough, histories of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. He chose as subjects for biography such esoteric figures as Thomas Sherlock, a talented 18th-century bishop of Salisbury, and Thomas Tenison, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1693-1716.

In 1966, Carpenter published *The English Church*. But his most arresting and accessible contribution to Anglican Church history was a study he published in 1971, *Consecration: The Archbishops in their Office*, tracing the history of 100 archbishops and leading



his readers with effortless ease through the ecclesiastical and political landscape.

But the work that caused Dr Carpenter most hard labour was his life of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, not published until 19 years after his subject's death. Carpenter had not appreciated the mass of material available and he also discovered to his amazement that one of Fisher's successors as Bishop of London, Gerald Ellison, had made a bonfire of the London archives, much of which had to be reconstructed from one-sided correspondence.

When Margaret Thatcher announced a VE Day service without foreigners he rallied an ecumenical front to challenge her — and won

ment that one of Fisher's successors as Bishop of London, Gerald Ellison, had made a bonfire of the London archives, much of which had to be reconstructed from one-sided correspondence.

The book was largely written at nights after Carpenter had gone for a bicycle ride to clear his thoughts, but he was equally likely to break off from some ecclesiastical duty

to dash down a sentence that had suddenly occurred to him. Carpenter was not particularly enamoured of the authoritarian Fisher, but he believed that someone had a duty to produce an adequate biography. What emerged from Carpenter's rather haphazardly constructed portrait was a more compassionate and pastoral prelate than many had imagined Fisher to have been. Probably no other author available at the time would have produced a more fair or balanced book.

Carpenter was an unconventional clergyman with unusual gifts and an informal style, allied with extraordinary stamina. After labouring half the night over his life of Fisher he would be at prayer in the Abbey at seven o'clock. He took pride in being easily available to everyone, and it was said that he never failed to take a person seriously.

Carpenter's style was to distribute keys of the deanship to all and sundry. He and his wife once vacated their bedroom and kitchen to accom-

modate the Delia Lums and his fastidious entourage. He was interested in comparative religion and instituted the Commonwealth Observance service at the Abbey.

State occasions, like every other activity, he took in his stride, and he might well arrive still buttoning up his cassock, and his head full of the latest football results, to greet a member of the royal family. On two occasions, his principles prompted him to stand out against the establishment of which he was so prominent a member. Without consultation, Margaret Thatcher announced that a service was to be held in the Abbey to commemorate the 40th anniversary of VE Day, but that no foreigners other than diplomats were to be invited. Carpenter rallied an ecumenical front to challenge such a preposterous idea, and won.

His disdain for triumphalism set the tone for Lord Runcie's later refusal to boast of victory at St Paul's Cathedral after the Falklands War.

When the controversial "Bomber" Harris died, for whom, as a member of the Order of the Bath, Carpenter was automatically offered the Abbey, Carpenter, dean of the order, declined to read the bidding prayer.

His death will be a particular sadness for Trevor Beeson, a distinguished member of the Westminster Chapter who went on to become dean of Winchester. In November Beeson is due to publish diaries covering his years at Westminster, dedicated to Edward Carpenter, a "godly and erudite canon and dean of Westminster", sentiments that will be shared by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian, three sons and a daughter.

Michael De-la-Noy

Edward Frederick Carpenter, priest and Church historian, born November 27, 1910; died August 26, 1998



The jury's still out... E G Marshall (centre) with Lee J Cobb, John Fielder, Edward Binns and Jack Klugman in a scene from *Twelve Angry Men*

E G Marshall

Winning verdict for an 'ordinary' actor

PERHAPS the subtlest moment in Sidney Lumet's *Twelve Angry Men* (1957) is when juror No 4, a smug, rationalist businessman, who is unable to understand that a life is at stake in the "game" of justice, plucks the sides of his nose in fatigue, a gesture that Henry Fonda seizes upon to prove that the man generally wears glasses. It is a fact that adds to the argument for the acquittal of the boy on trial. The definition of the man, played by E G Marshall, who has died aged 88, is a wonder to behold. The role established Marshall as a character actor who was able to use his very ordinary looks in an extraordinary way.

"I'm not specialised. I can do doctors, judges, rapists," he once remarked. "There's always a part for an actor like me. I'm a utility man." This almost fearless quality kept Marshall continuously employed since he left his home

state of Minnesota in 1933 at the age of 23 to join a travelling Shakespearean company. It was 11 years later that he reached Broadway in a small part in the premiere of *Jacobowsky and the Colonel*, S N Behrman's adaptation of Franz Werfel's play. After making his film debut in Henry Hathaway's *The House on 92nd Street* (1945), which treated its subject (Nazi spies) as if it were a sewer, report by the FBI, he returned to the stage as Willy Oban in the first production of Eugene O'Neill's *The Iceman Cometh*, and continued to alternate between the cinema and theatre. But he only gained the notice of the general filmgoing public for the first time in *Twelve Angry Men*, although he had previously appeared in 11 films, including two more of Hathaway's semi-documentary thrillers: *13 Rue Madeleine* (1947) and *Call Northside 777* (1948), for which his

"anonymous" personality was particularly suited. Following *Twelve Angry Men*, Marshall had the role of the asthmatic man who will die unless he leaves New York city in *The Bachelor Party* (1957), one of the five office workers celebrating their colleague's last night of "freedom". Meanwhile, he had been playing on stage as John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* and Ephraim Cabot in *Desire Under the Elms*. But more satisfying and substantial roles than he ever got in the movies. Among his better parts was the unshowy prosecuting lawyer (in contrast to the showy Orson Welles for the defence) in *Compulsion* (1959), based on the Leopold and Loeb murder case, and the powerful oil baron and banker in the corrupt small town in *The Chase* (1966).

By then Marshall had won two Emmys for his performance as the forthright law-

yer in the popular TV series, *The Defenders* (1961-1964), most of the episodes of which were written by Reginald Rose, author of *Twelve Angry Men*. Relatively tame by today's standards, *The Defenders* was one of the first American TV series to deal with serious and sensitive issues like abortion, capital punishment, blacklisting and censorship. It also developed a sparky relationship between the crusty middle-aged Lawrence Preston (Marshall) and his idealistic law-partner son, Kenneth (Robert Reed).

On the big screen, Marshall was usually cast as authoritarian figures ranging from the general in command of an operation to take over *The Bridge at Remagen* (1969) to the President of the US in *Superman II* (1980). More interesting was his portrayal of the father of an upper-middle-class WASP family in Woody Allen's understated *Interiors* (1979). Marshall, playing a

wealthy lawyer, who suddenly decides to leave his cold wife for a life-loving vulgarist called Pearl (Maureen Stapleton), skilfully negotiated the character change from being unloved and loving to loved and loving. Marshall, who always refused to live in California and scorned the life-style of the stars, lived with his family near New York. He married twice — Helen Wolf, whom he divorced in 1953, and with whom he had two daughters, and Judith Coy, with whom he had two sons and a daughter.

As to his initials, he once claimed that the E stood for Enigma and the G for Gregarious. "My initials have been a good talking point for years and I don't want to ruin that," he explained.

Ronald Bergan

E G Marshall, actor; born June 18, 1910; died August 24, 1998

Baroness Denington

County Hall's empress

EVELYN Denington, who has died aged 90, was one of those strong-willed, popular in the early 1960s. Did they, she asked bitterly, remember a time when they had been without hot running water or a family bathroom or adequate bed space?

On good days the first woman chairman of the Greater London Council was capable of flashing a mordant smile like Peggy Mount, the archetypal cockney mother-in-law. On bad days, she was reminiscent of the last Empress of China, lurking in her County Hall Forbidden City. Immaculate and self-possessed, she wore establishment honours easily, chairing the GLC from 1975 to 1976 and becoming a life peer in 1978.

Evelyn Bursill was a south London girl from Blackheath High School and Bedford College, who worked in journalism from 1927 until 1931. A teacher between 1933 and 1960, she was general secretary of the National Association of Labour Teachers from 1938 to 1947. In 1955 she married science teacher Cecil Denington, who survives her. She was never easily intimidated. In the mid-1940s, having publicly advocated comprehensive education, she rode out a stinging rebuke from Herbert Morrison, who had run the London County Council (LCC) and the Labour Party machine and wielded considerable middle-class feathers before the 1945 General Election.

In that year, she had been elected with her husband to St Pancras Borough Council, where she stayed until 1958. This was a socialist Eton, Marshall, who always refused to live in California and scorned the life-style of the stars, lived with his family near New York. He married twice — Helen Wolf, whom he divorced in 1953, and with whom he had two daughters, and Judith Coy, with whom he had two sons and a daughter.

As to his initials, he once claimed that the E stood for Enigma and the G for Gregarious. "My initials have been a good talking point for years and I don't want to ruin that," he explained.

Ronald Bergan

E G Marshall, actor; born June 18, 1910; died August 24, 1998

blues. In later years, she challenged those who objected to high-rise build, popular in the early 1960s. Did they, she asked bitterly, remember a time when they had been without hot running water or a family bathroom or adequate bed space?

The LCC/GLC's housing empire stretched from Swindon in the west to Kings Lynn in the east. Denington was for a long period its unchallenged ruler and sceptical advisers either bowed to her charm and ruthlessness or were broken by her determination. I never detected much vanity, but she was radiantly satisfied with her honorary fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects and her honorary membership of the Royal Town Planning Institution. Even in her seventies, Denington was innovative



Denington... innovative

and busy in every aspect of the developing housing association movement, as well as continuing to chair Stevenage New Town Corporation between 1966 and 1980. In 1973 I replaced her as the GLC deputy leader. We were in a majority again and she took over the massive transport brief which included, among other things, financing London Transport. She quickly saw off two chairmen and brought in Kenneth Robinson — after all, he was an ex-St Pancras councillor as well as a one-time health minister.

I was entrusted with implementing policy and while we did have one farcical row (I accused her of being too near the roads lobby) we made up and prepared the first steps towards free public transport for London's million pension-

ers. The cautious, and by now conservative, woman, became a daring radical for a while. This was to be her second momentous achievement. She brooked no argument from fiscal pundits, launched a London social revolution — and pensioners filled public transport, went out spending and visited distant grandchildren.

After our failure to stop the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority in 1988 by the House of Lords, she wrote me a valedictory letter from her new home in Brighton. She apologised for no longer seeing the daily dose of London, having opted for the South Downs and expressed her despair at the behaviour of Tory backwoodsmen who had torn apart the last function of County Hall.

Evelyn cared deeply, in spite of often appearing to be a cold fisher — she sparked in an impromptu speech before the Queen Mother on the 25th anniversary of the Royal Festival Hall. She spoke of the optimism and hope raised by the Festival of Britain.

I enjoyed her menacing use of the handbag to indicate ultimate disapproval and her hypocrisy over a fair allocation of office space at County Hall was exposed when she quickly commandeered the only new air-conditioned suite. She was more of a private rather than a secret woman and although she drove a silver Jaguar with determined eyes and hands of steel there was little to be learned from other body language. Those who dared move into her County Hall parking space got to know the fury of a woman not to be crossed.

In the Lords, her long productive middle-aged afternoon gave way to a tedious evening, but she left scalps around Whitehall and bruised egos everywhere. If fate had played another hand, she would have made an effective permanent secretary.

Her elegant ghost — as the lost empress of the South Bank — must be stalking those former corridors of power in County Hall.

Rhys Harrington

Evelyn Joyce Denington (Baroness Denington of Stevenage), politician, born August 27, 1907; died August 22, 1998

A Country Diary

WENLOCK EDGE: The swifts and swallows are gone, and as the notion of autumn gathers into a more palpable presence, the Edge gets more... edgy. You can hear it in the wild voices. A family of buzzards launch into the wind. Their sharp cries are not just adjectives to each other but to the whole landscape. Ravens croak, rattle and at night shuddering hoofs of twenty owls bind the darkness under countless stars. There's something about the way these calls are received which is not captured by our rational understanding of the animals which make them. Sounds which set the blood racing embody a strangeness of the wild which finds a thrilling place within us. But

there are stranger things than magpies in the hedgebank, something dark falls in front of me. It has snake-like markings of black lattice over green and grey, a sharp tail spike and its bulbous head has two pairs of enormous staring eyes. It begins to thrash from side to side, raising its head from which a long trunk emerges. This is a real surprise, and although it takes me a second or two to realise what it is, I'm amazed by the shock value of this animal... The monster is the larva of the large elephant hawk moth and it had been feeding on willowherb leaves when I disturbed it. The response is to die of fright or would-be predators until it becomes the beautiful green and willowherb-pink

moth. This defensive display might seem a bit comic if you know what it is, but if you don't, what nightmare creature does it disguise itself as? Whatever it is, it's out there.

PAUL EVANS

Marriages

REDAFFORD: To announce the wedding of off field and dairy prices on 27th August. Congratulations from Mollie, Jack and Birtles.

Births

KENNY: On August 24 1998, To Lisa and Mark, a beautiful son, Jack, and grandson to John and Alan, Sheila and Frank.

LAREDO-JONES: To Erna and David, a son, brother to Fabio, on 22nd August.

Death Notices

BRIVANT: Julia, of Westminster, aged 80, on 21st August at Whips Cross Hospital. Lovingly loved father of Karen and friend of Jay. Funeral on 1st September at City of London Crematorium, Walsbrook at 3.30.

LAVERNE: John, peacefully at home August 20th. Transferring service Friday 28th August, 11.00am. Parish Church, Broad Street, Tel 0171 5848122.

STO: To place your announcement (between 8am and 3pm Mon-Fri).

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR obituary of Elena Garro, Page 26, August 25, we said that in 1946 Garro and Octavio Paz entertained in the Mexican Embassy in Paris many South American writers including Borges and the Peruvian poet Cesar Vallejo. Certainly not the latter, as he died in Paris in April 1938.

THE VILLAGE referred to in an article headed, A war about nothing, Page 16, August 24, is Cornimont (not Cominont), in the Vosges (which lost the final s in our version).

WE MISPELT the name of Ann Clwyd MP, Letters, Page

19, August 25. Sorry. In Weathercall, a panel which appears with our weather information, (yesterday, page 15) we have been misspelling Clwyd daily. Sorry for that, too.

IN THE Birthdays column, Page 15, August 24, we anticipated the 49th birthday of Christopher Rodrigues, the Bradford and Bingley Building Society, by precisely two months. He is not 49 until October 24.

INSPECTOR Nigel Innes of West Yorkshire police, who was mentioned in a Diary item, Page 18, August 25, is still an Inspector and not

as he appeared to be towards the end of the piece — a PC again.

THE REFERENCE in yesterday's correction about the US debt should have been: Page 18, August 19.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5559 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5657. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Letters

Frank Salmon writes: Nick Penny's account of the selflessness of Professor Michael Kitson (Obituary, August 11) was very well made: whole lives can turn on such generosity of spirit. In 1964, after I had failed to gain a postgraduate place at the Courtauld, my tutor wrote to Kitson asking for feedback. In my nervousness I had mistaken Kitson for the person who actually interviewed me. He took up the case of a complete stranger, a place was found and I became an art history lecturer.

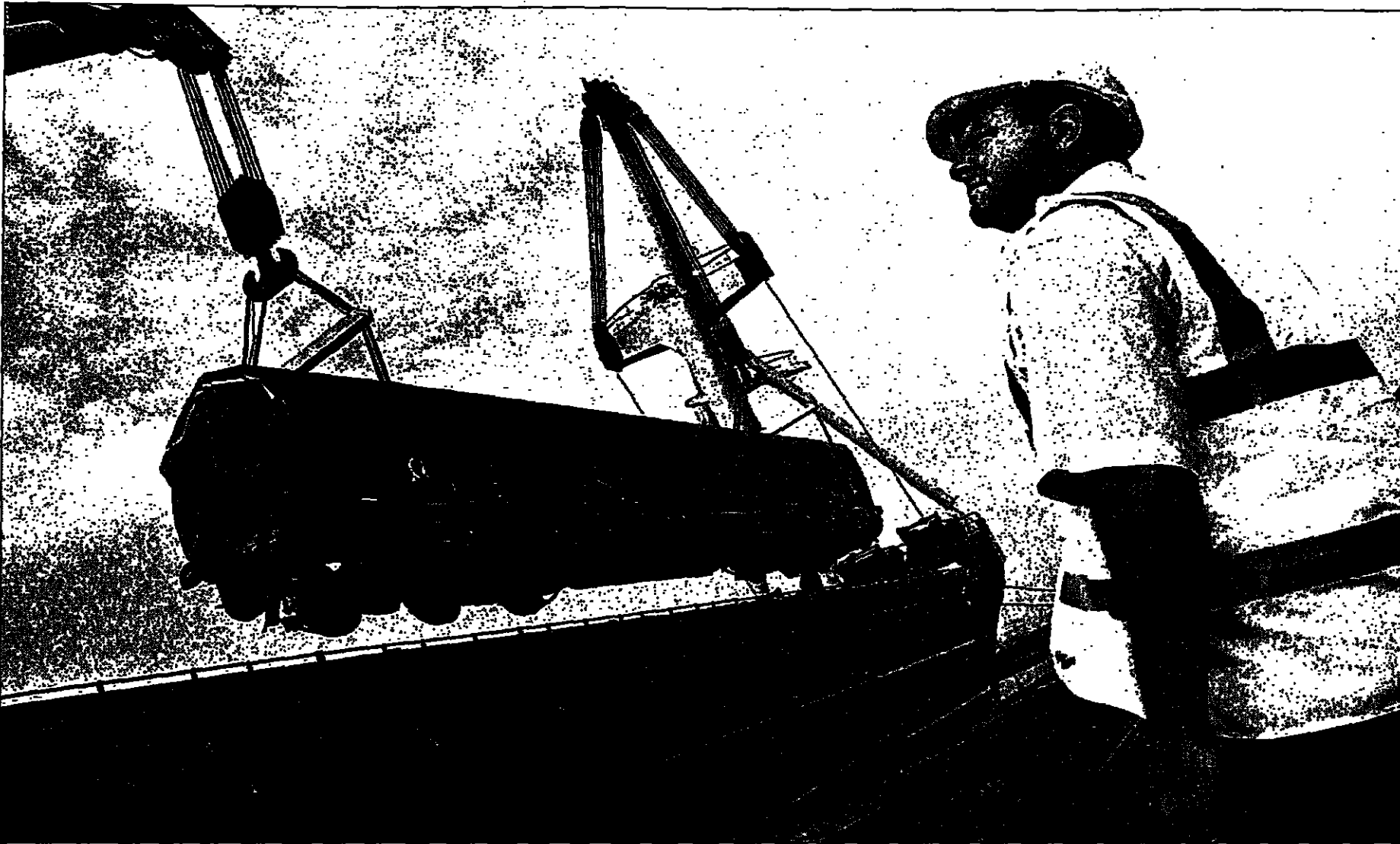
● We apologise that the obituary omitted to say that Kitson is survived by his wife Annabella and his two sons.

E H Thomas writes: Nat Gonella (Obituary, August 8), did not join the Army at the outbreak of war. In September 1939 he was touring Sweden and Holland with his band, and singer Stella Moya. Nat and Stella managed to leave Holland before the 1940 German invasion, and made their way to the south of France, from where they made their way back to England in an eventual sea journey. Nat and Stella married on their return to England. He received his army call-up papers in July 1941, and was posted to the Pioneer Corps. During his service with this unit, he appeared regularly in *Stars in Battle*.

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FinanceGuardian

Widest trade gap for eight years ● CBI calls for lower interest rates



On the day that the Confederation of British Industry complained of the widening trade gap, the first of 250 freight locomotives made by General Motors in Ontario arrives at Newport docks yesterday. The class 66 engines are part of a £500 million order by English, Welsh and Scottish Railways

Full-blown recession fear

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

BUSINESS leaders will today warn that the deepening problems in industry are threatening to drag the rest of the economy into full-blown recession. With the pound heading towards three German marks and the international outlook deteriorating almost daily, the Confederation of British Industry is likely to downgrade its growth forecast and step up pressure for lower interest rates.

The CBI's quarterly forecast and its latest monthly Industrial Trends Survey, released today, follow figures published yesterday showing that Britain's deficit in goods and services in the first half of this year at its highest level

for eight years. The strength of the pound and the Asian economic crisis are blamed. With Asian woes spreading to Russia and other "emerging markets", the pound's "safe haven" status is being reinforced to the dismay of exporters.

Yesterday sterling, rising on the coat-tails of the surging dollar, hit DM2.96 with some economists saying it could go higher. Robin Aspinall of National Australia Bank in London said there was a mild downward bias in the short-term, but added that the pound could soon be "comfortably" above DM3 and might even revisit spring's high of DM3.11.

"It's going to hurt and put a lot of pressure on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to cut interest rates," he said.

The latest Office for

Widening gap
Exports and services, trade balance, £bn



National Statistics figures published yesterday showed that Britain's deficit in trade of goods with the rest of the world fell to £1.4 billion in June from £1.9 billion in May, but this reflected a one-off increase in exports of precious stones and a reduction of aircraft imports.

Excluding erratic items, the deficit widened to £1.6 billion

from £1.4 billion. On a trend basis, the ONS said the goods trade deficit was widening. Taking trade in goods and services together, the deficit in the first half of 1998 was £3.7 billion, the worst half-yearly figure since the first half of 1990 when the economy was on the brink of recession.

"We expect the trade balance to show a big deficit in 1998, as exports weaken further due to the strength of sterling and the Asian crisis," said Francesca Massone, economist at Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank.

The Treasury has pencilled in a goods and services deficit of £11.75 billion in 1998, up from £3.75 billion last year.

In the long run, a widening trade gap and slowing economic growth ought, in theory, to undermine sterling's strength. But Mr Aspin-

Notebook

Credit crunch sounds alarm



Alex Brummer

THE disclosure that the 1998 profits of investment bankers Credit Suisse First Boston have been slashed in half by the Russian crisis provides an insight into the potential problems in emerging markets across the banking sector.

The credit rating for Deutsche Bank has been lowered and speculation has been rife — although firmly denied — that one of British clearing banks has taken a bath in the sterling swaps market. All that is now needed for the turbulence on global markets to turn into a panic is news that any bank west of the Oder is in financial difficulty.

It might be thought that the problems of a Swiss investment bank or small European institution are of no relevance. But it should be remembered that one of the sparks for the thirties depression was the collapse of Credit-Anstalt of Vienna in 1931. Difficulties in the credit markets, where business institutions are of no relevance, quickly spreads to the real economy as banks and other players go into extreme caution mode — what Americans call "credit crunch".

The potential for real trouble is picked up by NatWest strategists in their August 26 Global Financial Markets circular. It notes that with "the sizeable losses being chalked up at investment banks globally, spread widening has become more widespread and eventually threatens to develop into an effective tightening of corporate credit conditions — dampening growth prospects and hurting equity markets further."

In the event that global credit conditions become tighter, the NatWest strategists argue that the Federal Reserve, as the world's leading central bank, would have little choice but to ease credit conditions by lowering interest rates. It has become customary for the Bank of England to argue that there is no point in suppressing interest rates, since it cannot make a significant difference globally.

However, with the spreads between lending and borrowing rates unusually wide in the UK credit markets, the Bank might in the end have little choice but to act in concert with the Fed — or even independently. In the uncertain conditions, fears about rising earnings in Britain may be the least of the authorities' problems.

to date that the world could be facing a deflationary era. This also is likely to reshape the global oil industry. The absorption of Amoco into BP is just the first stage of what could become a widespread restructuring.

This was underlined at the Offshore Northern Seas conference in Stavanger by Phil Watts, a senior Shell executive, who argued that there "will be a serious shakeout in the oil industry in the next few years". The Shell managing director suggested that many of the smaller oil companies would find it difficult to manage alone, with prices now at \$12 a barrel.

The drive down in oil prices has radically changed the economics of oil companies. Until recently, the big problems for many of the majors was at the petrol pumps, where price competition was squeezing margins. The fall in the market value of oil has yet to be reflected in the price at the pumps, however, which has allowed some companies to reap large windfall profits at the expense of consumers.

But other bits of the earnings equation are turning to custard: chemical margins have been declining and refining margins in the US and Far East fell sharply in the second quarter. European refining, which has held up better until now, is also starting to show signs of weakness. All of these factors could have a severe impact on cash generation at the majors, forcing them to look for defensive mergers. The bigger companies have some protection because they have production which is still profitable even at today's low prices. Some will be less fortunate.

Tokyo tensions

WITH the intense focus on the market difficulties in Russia and latterly Latin America, the world's second largest economy — Japan — has been escaping scrutiny. But six weeks after the elections in which the ruling LDP was given a bloody nose and Ryutaro Hashimoto was replaced as Prime Minister by Keizo Obuchi, the country appears as divided as ever over what to do about its ailing banking system, with an estimated bad debt as large as the gross domestic product of Canada.

The opposition Democratic Party is actively challenging the plans to have the public underwrite \$5.3 billion (about \$3.3 billion) of bad debt at the Long Term Credit Bank as part of the rescue involving Sumitomo bank. It is argued that the government has failed to disclose the nature of the bad debts involved and that taxpayers' funds are to be expended without a full accounting.

The new Financial Supervisory Agency — created to restore public confidence in the financial system after the mistakes made by the Ministry of Finance — is declining to make public its audit of some 18 nationwide lenders. Without more openness in the banking system will be all but impossible, and Tokyo stocks will continue to fall.

Oil signals

AMONG the key early indicators that something is wrong with the global economy has been the sharp fall in oil prices. This has provided the sharpest evidence

TUC plans hard time for Brown

David Gow

UNION leaders are preparing a hostile reception for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, at next month's annual trades union congress and growing fears that the imminent recession could wipe out swaths of Britain's manufacturing base.

The TUC last night backed in the unprecedented glory of attracting five cabinet ministers — including Mr Brown, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Peter Mandelson, the new Trade and Industry Secretary — as well as the Bank's governor to its four-day conference in Blackpool.

The scale and quality of visitors at the event which effectively opens the autumn political and economic season is seen within Congress House as reflecting the TUC's emerging role as an effective campaigner on a par with the employers' body.

The TUC may feel it can now rival the Confederation of British Industry as a voice worth listening to in Whitehall, Westminster and the City. But several of its leaders, including Ken Jackson of the electrical and engineering union, plan to voice criticism of monetary and fiscal policy.

Mr Brown and Mr George, who deliver speeches to the congress on September 15, will be told that their policies and the strong pound threaten jobs in industry.

Buoyancy in New York is preventing a worldwide meltdown, says **Larry Elliott**

JOSEPH KENNEDY once said that he knew the Wall Street crash of 1929 was coming when his shoeshine boy started to chat to him about the stock market. Kennedy's rule of thumb was that if even those blacking his boots were playing the market, it was time for the professionals to sell. The bloodbath that followed proved him right.

The Wall Street of 1998 is again dominated by small investors. Sucked in by the biggest bull market in history, ordinary Americans have been running down their

bank accounts and putting their savings into mutual funds. As with every asset-price bubble in history — from the tulip mania in 17th Century Holland to the Japan of the late 1980s — the dominant force behind the market can be summed up in one word: greed.

So, while the rest of the world has been trembling at the prospect of the Russian economy going into freefall and the virus spreading to Latin America, New York has been left pretty much unscathed. It needs to stay that way, because the one thing

stopping the recent bout of global financial turbulence from turning into something much, much nastier, is the buoyancy of the American stock market.

To be sure, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down in early trading yesterday, but not by all that much. And while the Dow Jones is off its all-time peak in July, most analysts are still confident that the decline is a correction rather than the start of a crash.

Yet not everything is as it should be with the American economy growing at such a robust rate. Mr Santow reckons that few will pay much attention to what is happening to the US trade balance, but that will change if the domestic economy slows down. "If the domestic side loses momentum, then a lot of people are going to start paying attention to trade numbers," he said.

Graham Turner, economist with Tokai Bank in London, believes the New York market is like one of those cartoon characters who briefly defy gravity after walking off the edge of a cliff but eventually plummet to earth.

Wall Street is the key. There is a massive amount of inertia because of the weight of retail investors and the blatant manipulation of some of the Wall Street firms themselves, who keep predicting that the market is going to 10,000 or 11,000."



Alan Greenspan has to produce a fine balancing act on interest ratesPHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN LARKIN

fourth quarter of last year to the fourth quarter this year.

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So what, if anything, could spook the seemingly nerveless US small investor? It could be that European bourses continue to slide, leaving Wall Street exposed as the only market bucking the global trend. It could be that some of the big American banks start to feel the pain from the unfolding crisis in Russia, where they stand to suffer substantial losses from any default by Moscow. Or it could be something more mundane, such as some poor US economic data.

For example, the figures for US corporate profits in the second quarter are due to be released today and are expected to show earnings down by around 1 per cent. Yet, the bull market on Wall Street is predicated on ever-higher corporate profits.

"The end game is upon us," said Mr Turner. "The next two months will be critical."

He added that the worst might be avoided, but only if

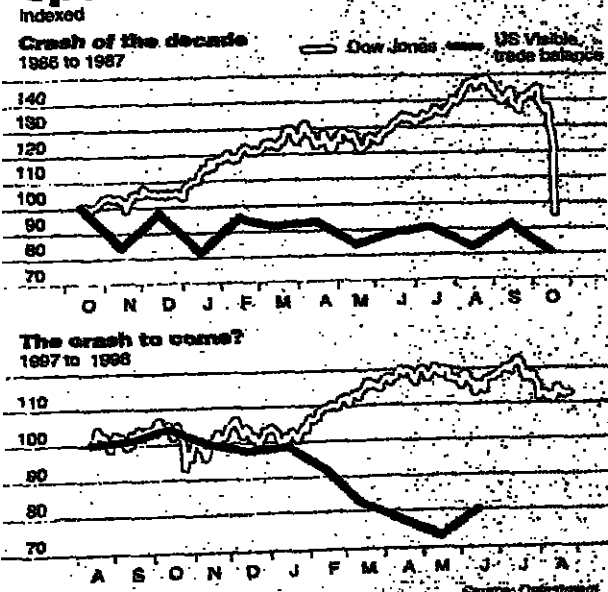
Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, decided to boost confidence and market liquidity by cutting American interest rates.

Yet, the current state of the American economy suggests that there is little domestic need for cheaper money and, indeed, the bias inside the Fed is for the next move in rates to be up rather than down.

Figures released yesterday showed that consumers are still on a spending spree, fuelled by low unemployment and a booming housing market.

Ultimately, Wall Street can be kept at current levels only if Mr Greenspan feeds the greed by pumping up the economy and thereby making some of the fundamental problems of the economy — such as the trade deficit — even worse. Something will probably have to give, and if 1997 is anything to go by, it will be Wall Street.

Spot the difference



| TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Australia 2.788 | Germany 2.8653 | Malaysia 6.91 | Singapore 2.85 |
| Austria 20.10 | Greece 481.23 | Netherlands 3.22 | South Africa 10.08 |
| Belgium 56.13 | Hong Kong 12.34 | New Zealand 3.25 | Spain 242.11 |
| Canada 2.47 | India 69.81 | Norway 12.65 | Sweden 13.28 |
| Cyprus 0.888 | Ireland 1.1541 | Portugal 230.83 | Switzerland 1.28 |
| Denmark 10.97 | Israel 6.11 | Saudi Arabia 5.04 | Turkey 438.150 |
| Finland 8.79 | Italy 2.840 | USA 1.5938 | |
| France 6.57 | | | |

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Football

Spurs call for Peters in hour of need

Mark Tallentire

Drugs in

Drugs inquiry clears Serie A

The investigation was sparked when Roma's coach Zdenek Zeman expressed his "amazement" at the quick

done a good deal."

World Track Championships



French polish . . . Philippe Ermenault on his way to the individual pursuit title in Bordeaux

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL EULER

Boardman crashes out

Barry Andrew In Bordeaux

the day as Alband Tourman had taken the 1km time-trial with a surprise win over the

two weeks away, it is highly unlikely the inci-

were Edwards and weightlifter Paul Supple. The name of the Welsh athlete is as yet unconfirmed.

0.4sec. The British rider Jason Queally finished a creditable seventh in 1.03.494, more than 0.5sec faster than his national record set at altitude in Colombia in May.

1997 Most recent Tour win in
1988 Takes career earnings
European Tour list.

The James years


European Tour List

James . . . experienced

Lee Westwood, absent with a hip injury, at the top of the Order of Merit. Colin Montgomerie, in third place, cannot catch him even if he picks up the top prize of £141,660.


to £2,933,484, 10th on all-time

BEFORE CHECKING OUT FOR YOUR BANK HOLIDAY, CHECK IN AT




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- ☒ TOP UP WITH ESSO ULTRON
- ☒ CHECK TYRE PRESSURE
- ☒ CHECK WATER
- ☒ CLEAN SCREEN

BEFORE YOU SET OFF ON THESE HOLIDAYS, make sure you've got your car in the best possible condition. It's a good idea to check the oil, top up with **Esso Ultron**, check the tyre pressure, check the water and clean the screen. It's a good idea to check the oil, top up with **Esso Ultron**, check the tyre pressure, check the water and clean the screen. It's a good idea to check the oil, top up with **Esso Ultron**, check the tyre pressure, check the water and clean the screen.



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SportsGuardian

European Cup

Second qualifying round, second leg
LKS Lodz 0 Manchester United 0 (agg: 0-2)

Red Devils delight in grey draw

David Lacey in Lodz sees United ease through to the group stage

MANCHESTER United assured themselves of another season in the rich pickings of the Champions League here last night with a thoroughly controlled exercise in patient, possessive football to deny LKS Lodz any realistic chance of recovering from the 2-0 defeat they had suffered in the opening leg.

For United the operation in Poland was not dissimilar to the goalless draw in Monaco which had preceded their departure, on an away goal at Old Trafford, from last season's quarter-finals. This time however the strategy seemed more justified, given United's advantage.

Beckham, for once on a ground where he was not booed, marked the occasion with a yellow card

with pace and width and in generous numbers. Little Rafal Niznik announced Lodz intentions in the opening half-an-hour with a shot from 25 yards that went just wide but gradually Roy Keane and Nicky Butt asserted their authority in midfield, and from this platform United started to gain a grip on the match. As they did so, David Beckham and Ryan Giggs began to establish regular contact with Scholes and Sheringham in the approaches to goal.

when Butt met a poor clearance from Ariel Jakubowski with a hard-driven low shot that Boguslaw Wyparło saved with some difficulty. Yet their pressure was mounting all the time. After half an hour Beckham, for once finding himself on an away ground where he was not being booed, marked the occasion by getting himself a yellow card for upending Kos. Generally, however, United's attitude was one of measured calm.

Ariel in the 43rd minute Giggs appeared to have set up a goal for Beckham by running at a retreating defence in the inside-right position and then sending the England man through with only Wyparło to beat. But Beckham mis-hit his shot, giving the LKS goalkeeper the chance to push a gently rising ball over the bar. A goal for Manchester United then and what little life there was left in the contest would have disappeared. At the start of the second half Niznik's brisk cross gave Schuster a rare feel of the ball but as Sheringham, under pressure as he met Beckham's low centre, sliced another good chance wide United appeared merely to be hiding their time.



Taste of nutmeg... Teddy Sheringham slips the ball through the legs of Grzegorz Krysiak

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN SIBLEY

England bowler fined £1,000

Mike Selvey

BEN HOLLOAKE was fined £1,000 yesterday after an alarm call failed to materialise making him late for the final England squad session before today's one-off Test against Sri Lanka at The Oval.

The Surrey all-rounder, who will earn £3,150 if he makes the team proper, did not arrive at the ground from the team's Chelsea hotel until 10am, 45 minutes late, and immediately incurred the wrath of the England management.

David Graveney, the chairman of the England selectors, does not act on disciplinary matters because of his dual role as general secretary of the Association of Professional Cricketers' union. He referred the matter to the England and Wales Cricket Board's advisory committee who imposed the fine.

"Ben has let himself and the team down," said Graveney, "but he has apologised, been fined and the matter is now closed."

England face the prospect of going into the final Test of the summer without two key batsmen. As expected Nasser Hussain failed a fitness test on his injured groin yesterday and will be replaced by Lancashire's John Crawley, but Mike Atherton was a surprise absentee from the nets.

A glum former England captain sat in pain on The Oval balcony and nursed his chronic back problem. It was probably the damp air that was responsible, though, and Atherton is expected to be fit today. But Steve James, rather than Warwickshire's Nick Knight or Darren Maddy of Leicestershire, was drafted in as cover, presumably because his county Glamorgan are not playing in the current round of championship matches.

This means that Graeme Hick is given the chance to make or break his Test career at No. 3.

Oval preview, page 12



Frank Keating

An island hop that helped change the cricket map

KEITH FLETCHER's England side were Sri Lanka's opponents when they played their first official Test match 16 years ago in Colombo. England were demob happy, having arrived after losing an interminably dreary five-Test series in India when Sunil Gavaskar, one up after the first, proved far more canny than Fletcher at slowing down the over-rates. It was the end of February. A handful of journalists had been hanging on to Fletcher's sweltering caravan all round the subcontinent since October, and a pinnacle of delight was

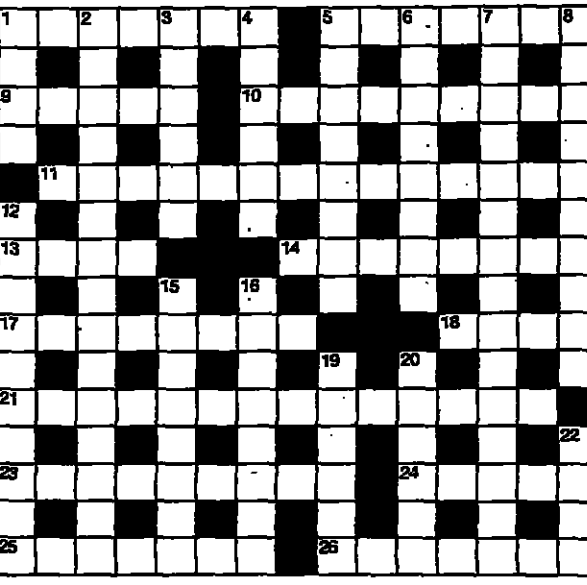
to find the team's Colombo hotel had ice-cold Guinness on tap. That probably contributed to the fact that not one of us snuffed a hint of the imminent "rebel" tour of South Africa, stealthily organised under our very noses by half a dozen of the England tourists and which was to begin only 96 hours after the end of this Sri Lanka Test.

None the wiser, either, was the posse of bigwigs from Lord's who flew in for a celebration banquet during the match. They were none too amused at the dinner when dear old captain Fletcher — always had a name, earlier in the tour he had introduced Paul Allott to the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as "er, John Arlott" — had his whole team sniggering at every mention he made of the gracious host country which had, of course, not long changed its name.

When he first began touring Keith had batted a few times there after Indian tours or on steamship stopovers on the way to Australia, when Sri Lanka had been known as Ceylon. Now throughout his speech, the engaging Mr Malaprop of a captain inspired his fond team to unseemly fits of schoolboy giggles by at least five times in his speech referring to this brand new cricketing country as "Sri-Lon".

Guardian Crossword No 21,364

Set by Hendra



Across
1 Beg for crust of bread with cheese spread (7)
5 Fall asleep and dribble away (4,3)
9 First capital gains tax in Berkshire? (5)
10 Laid up in bunk, free study may follow (9)
11 Ineptly try in cooking, in

Columbian mists? (14)
23 Ensemble playing for money before a party (5,4)
24 Boredom, a bit of a rotten nuisance (5)
25 Finish lame in final stages of match (7)
26 Pity Engineers taking on Signals? (7)
Across
1 Drop a bunch of keys (4)
2 Cuz? (5-2-7)
3 One of two (one in three is incorrect) (5)
4 Bath is changing traditions (6)
5 Lawyer twice sits, unusually, for artists (8)
6 First love railing, sadly (8)
7 Senior in prolonged ease, possibly (3,3,3)
8 Long for favour in the masquerade (5,5)
12 See bells scattered around cricket club? That's handy (10)
15 Feeling of unease 'ers, we hear, in SE Asia federation (6)
16 New member admits a name for thin skin (8)
19 One is powerless when circle goes flying (6)
20 English hunts returning for prize (5)
22 A lot of money for a large building (4)

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